

**First Things First  
Needs and Assets Report**

**La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council  
2012**

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## FIRST THINGS FIRST

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## **Introductory Summary and Acknowledgments**

### **First Things First La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council**

## Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	4
Executive Summary .....	7
Who are the families and children living in the La Paz/Mohave Region? .....	8
General Population Trends .....	8
Additional Population Characteristics .....	17
Economic Circumstances .....	24
Educational Indicators .....	39
The Early Childhood System: Detailed Descriptions of Assets and Needs .....	43
Quality and Access .....	43
Professional Development.....	46
Health.....	47
Family Support .....	64
Public Information and Awareness.....	71
System Coordination.....	74
Summary and Conclusion .....	75
Appendix X. Data by Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA).....	76
Appendix X. Community Forum Summary – Dolan Springs.....	79
Sources.....	83

## List of Tables

Table 1. Population and households by area in the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council, 2010

Table 2. Comparison of U.S. Census 2000 and U.S. Census 2010, including incorporated areas

Table 3. Number of children living in a grandparent’s household, and number of multi-generational households

Table 4. Race and Ethnicity by Community

Table 5. Estimated number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, their families, and children 0 to 5 years of age in La Paz and Mohave counties

Table 6. Language Use in the La Paz/Mohave Region

Table 7. Median family annual income and persons living below the U.S. Census poverty threshold level

Table 8. 2010 Poverty and Median Income Estimates

Table 11. Foreclosures in Arizona, La Paz and Mohave Counties, and Communities with available data

Table 13. Children 0-5 Receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)

Table 16. Percent Free and Reduced Lunch by School District

Table 18. High School Graduation and Drop-out Rates

Table 19. Cost of Full Time Child Care in Child Care Centers by Percent of Median Income (Married-Couple Families)

Table 20. Cost of Full Time Child Care in Unregulated Homes by Percent of Median Income (Married-Couple Families)

Table 22. Enrollment in AHCCS, including KidsCare, Dec 2011

Table 23. Enrollment in Arizona's KidsCare Program

Table 24. Preschool and Elementary Children Enrolled in Special Education, by school district

Table 25. Enrollment in Public Behavioral Health System

Table 26. Parental Involvement in Child's Growth and Development

Table 29. Homelessness in La Paz/Mohave School Districts

## List of Figures

Figure 1. The La Paz/Mohave Region. Gray areas are the Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) assigned to the region by First Things First.

Figure 2. Percent of households with children (0-5), by community

Figure 3(a). Geographic distribution of children under six according to the 2010 Census (by census block). Each black triangle in the map on the right indicates the approximate location of a young child (ages 0-5).

Figure 3(b). Geographic distribution of children under six according to the 2010 Census (by census block). This map is a close-up view of the Bullhead City area.

Figure 4. Population Change for Children 0-5 in Arizona and by County

Figure 5. Increase or decrease in children (0-5), 2000 to 2010, by community

Figure 6. Living arrangements for children in the La Paz/Mohave Region

Figure 7. Types of households with one or more children under six years old

Figure 8. Percent of children (0-5) living in their grandparent's household

Figure 9. Percent of Population in Poverty, by census tract

Figure 10. Elementary and unified school districts in the La Paz/Mohave Region

Figure 11. Annual unemployment rates in La Paz and Mohave counties

Figure 12. Unemployment rates, 2007-2011, by community

Figure 13. Proportion of Households Receiving SNAP and/or TANF assistance

Figure 14. 2011 Results of the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) Test

Figure 15. Childcare providers in the La Paz/Mohave Region

Figure 16. Ratio of Population to Primary Care Providers, 2011

Figure 17. Birth Rate per 1000 residents (avg 2000-2009)

Figure 18. Percent of Births with Prenatal Care Begun First Trimester (avg 2000-2009)

Figure 19. Average Percent of Births with Fewer Than Five Prenatal Care Visits

Figure 20. Average Percent of Low Birth Weight (5 lbs, 8 oz or less) Births

Figure 21. Average Rate of Teen Births per 1,000 Females 14-19 years old

Figure 22. Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births (avg 2000-2009)

Figure 23. Percent of Uninsured Births (avg 2000-2009)

## **Executive Summary**

*[The executive summary will be a one- or two-page overview of the report. We will include a summary of the current needs and assets in the region, and recommendations for the future.]*

## Who are the families and children living in the La Paz/Mohave Region?

The information contained in this report includes data obtained from state agencies by First Things First, data obtained from other publically available sources, and findings from additional data collection that was conducted specifically for this report. Because community-level information in rural areas is sparse, the La Paz/Mohave Regional Council sought additional detailed data gathering, analysis and reporting at the community level in order to provide a more complete “picture” of the Region. Fifteen geographic areas within the La Paz/Mohave Region were identified by the Regional Council as focus areas for additional data collection and analysis. To be consistent with First Things First designations, and to provide a common data gathering metric, these areas were designated by zip code, with a number of zip codes combined for each community to allow for more stable estimates than those provided by a single zip code. Appendix xx provides a list of those communities and their associated zip codes. Secondary data were collected from federal sources, and state and community agencies, and were supplemented by primary data gathered from key community informants through phone interviews and focus groups. Appendices xx through xx provide more detailed information about these data collection methods and instruments.

Fact sheets were developed for each of these communities, based on the available data. These are included in Appendices xx-xx. Due to the smaller numbers on which these fact sheets were developed, the information contained in them is less robust than the estimates based on larger areas, such as the Region or the counties. In addition, because they are based on zip codes, *the estimates often do not directly correspond to other smaller area estimates, such as census incorporated areas*. However, these more community-based data give important information about the variability across the Region. For the purpose of this report, we will primarily provide the more stable estimates available at the Region, but will highlight important community variations where warranted<sup>1</sup>.

## General Population Trends

Geographically, the La Paz/Mohave Region consists of the two counties of La Paz and Mohave, excluding three reservation areas (Colorado River Indian Tribes, Hualapai, and Kaibab), but including the Arizona portion of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe reservation (First Things First, 2010a). The Colorado River Indian Tribes and the Hualapai have each formed a Regional Partnership Council to administer their First Things First programs. The Fort Mojave reservation is part of the La Paz/Mohave Region, and the Kaibab reservation is part of the Coconino Region. The map below (Figure 1) shows the geographical area covered by the La Paz/Mohave Region.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that fact sheet data for the Parker community includes the Colorado River Indian Tribe.



**Figure 1. The La Paz/Mohave Region. Gray areas are the Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) assigned to the region by First Things First.**



NOTES: ZCTA 86022, which includes the Cane Beds community and the Kaibab Reservation, is assigned to the Coconino Region. The majority of ZCTA 86434 lies in the Hualapai Reservation. Part of ZCTA 85344 lies in the Colorado River Indian Reservation.

According to U.S. Census data (U.S. Census Bureau, P1, P14, & P20), the La Paz/Mohave Region had a population of 211,367 in 2010, of whom 13,395 (6%) were children under the age of six. Table 1, below, lists the 2010 populations for the Region, the state, both counties, and for the portions of each reservation which lie in one of the two counties.

**Table 1. Population and households by area in the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council, 2010**

	TOTAL POPULATION	CHILDREN 0 TO 5 YEARS OLD	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	HOUSEHOLDS WITH ONE OR MORE CHILDREN (0-5)	
Arizona	6,392,017	546,609	2,380,990	384,441	16%
<b>La Paz/Mohave Region</b>	<b>211,367</b>	<b>13,395</b>	<b>88,742</b>	<b>9,126</b>	<b>10%</b>
La Paz County (entire)	20,489	1,227	9,198	822	9%
Colorado River Indian Tribes*	7,077	739	2,336	485	21%
Mohave County (entire)	200,186	13,218	82,539	8,981	11%
Fort Mojave Reservation*	1,004	89	370	63	17%
Hualapai Reservation	1,335	197	362	123	34%
Kaibab Reservation	240	35	79	23	29%

(\*) Arizona part only

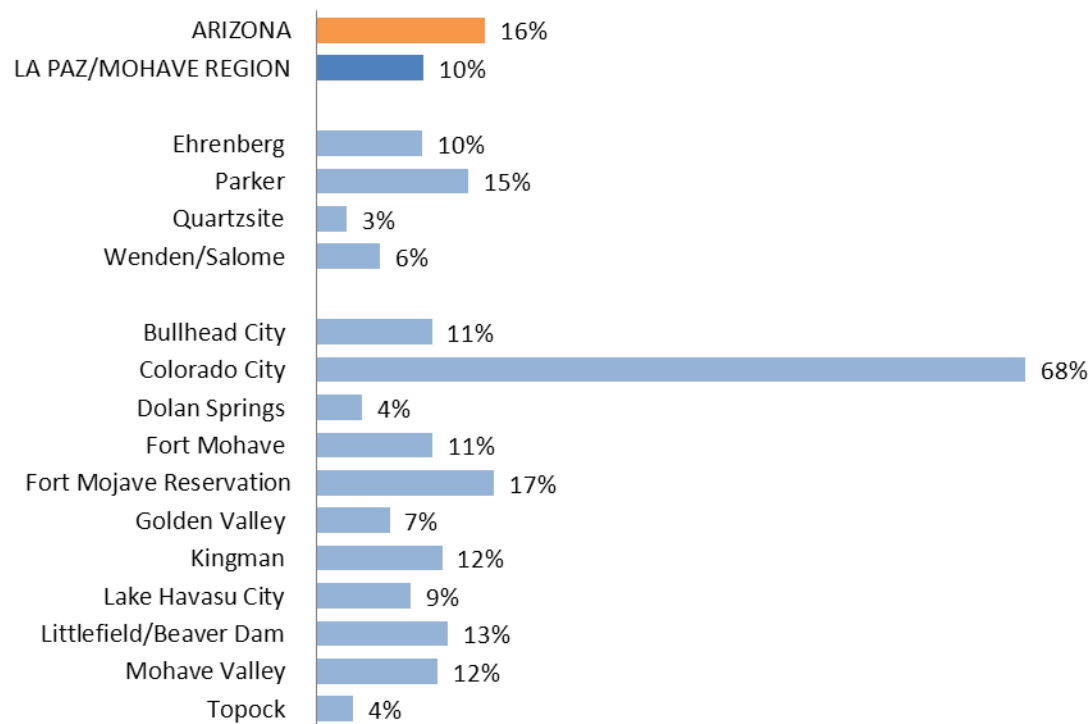
Source: US Census 2010, Tables P1, P14 & P20

Almost all of the children in Mohave County are included in the La Paz/Mohave Region. Only about two percent of the children under six in Mohave County are on the two reservations and other areas not included in this Region. In contrast, about 60 percent of the young children in La Paz County live within the Colorado River Indian Tribe Region. Therefore, whereas county-level estimates may be appropriate to use for the Mohave portion of the La Paz/Mohave Region when reservation-specific data are not available, the La Paz portion should, when possible, be adjusted down by Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) numbers.

Overall, there are proportionately fewer households in the Region (10%) than in the State (16%) that contain young children. However, there is variation in the communities across the Region. Three communities in the Region have fewer than five percent of families with young children (Topock, Dolan Springs and Quartzsite), suggesting that these families may be particularly isolated. (See Appendix XX for more detailed information by Zip Code Tabulation Area.) In Dolan Springs, the small percentage of households with young children corresponds with a very high rate of children living in their grandparent's household (34%, over twice the statewide rate

of 14%) suggesting that there may be particular need to support these types of families (see Figure 9). Two communities (Fort Mojave Indian Tribe and Colorado City/ Centennial Park) have a higher rate of families with young children than the State as a whole. Over two-thirds of the households in Colorado City/Centennial Park community report having at least one child between birth and five years of age.

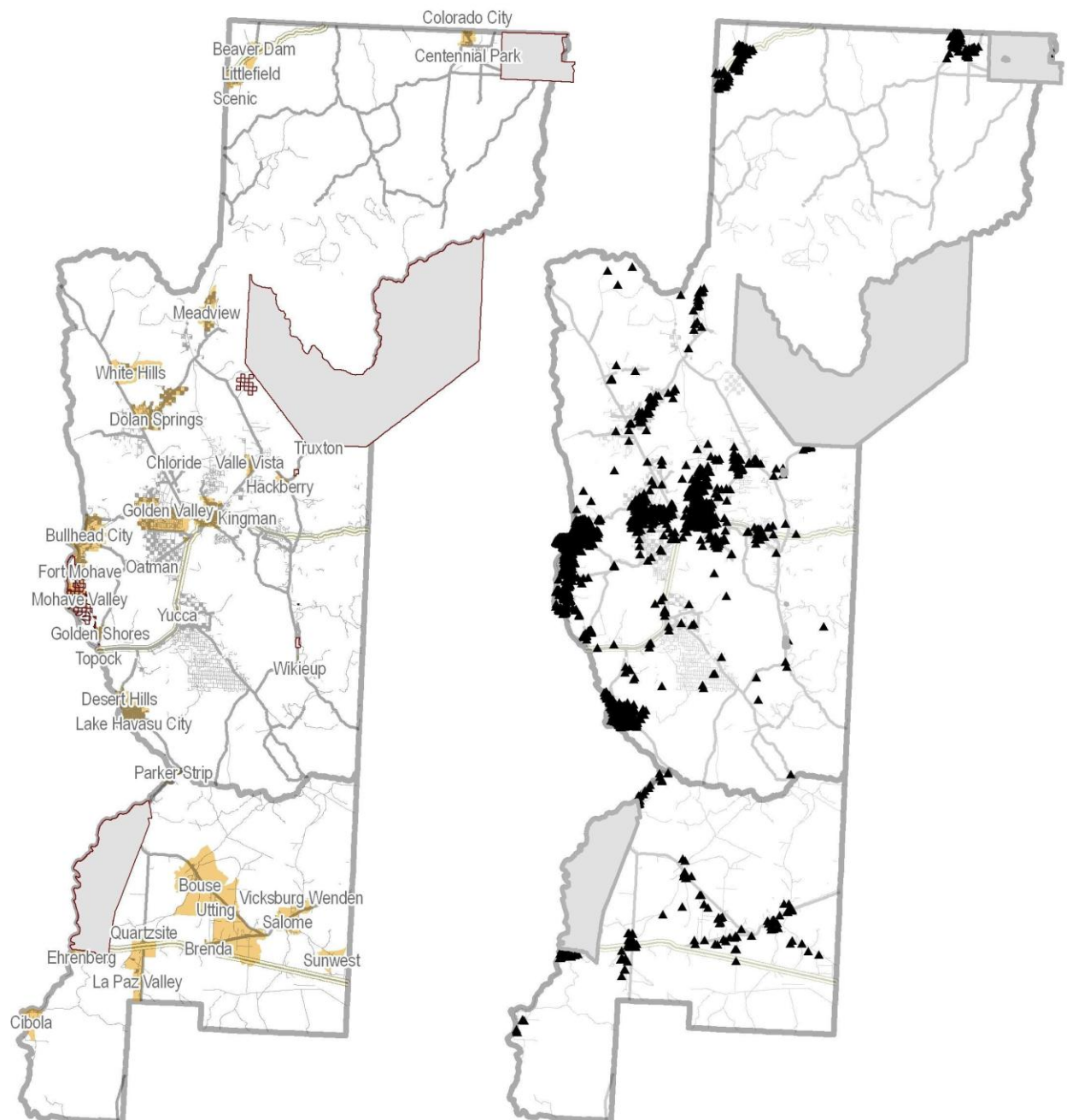
**Figure 2. Percent of households with children (0-5), by community**



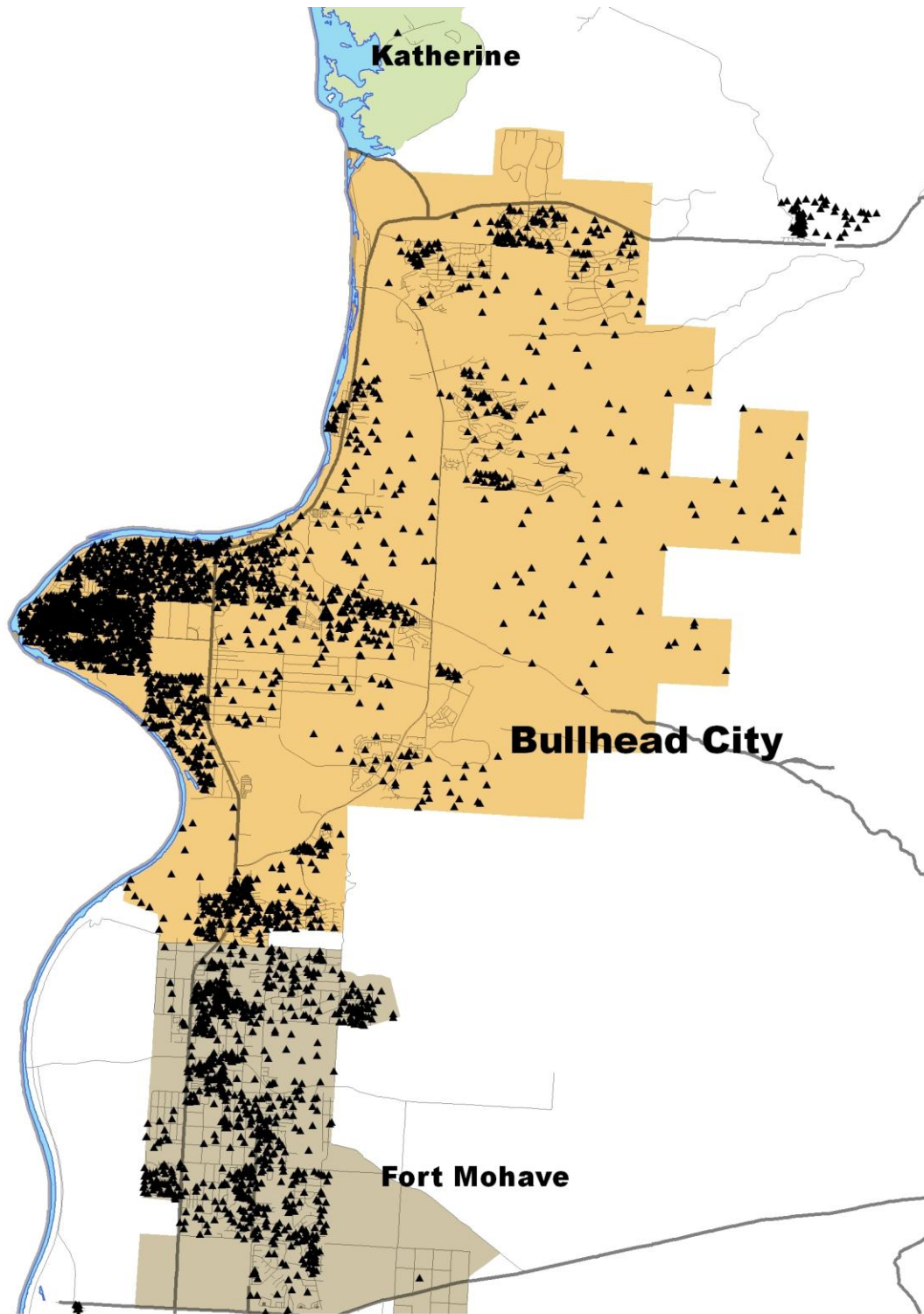
More detailed population and household data by zip code tabulation area are available in Appendix xx.

Figure 3 shows the geographical distribution of children under six in the Region, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. A dot on the map represents one child. The dots do not pinpoint each child's location, but are placed generally in each census block in which a young child was living in 2010.

**Figure 3(a). Geographic distribution of children under six according to the 2010 Census (by census block). Each black triangle in the map on the right indicates the approximate location of a young child (ages 0-5).**



**Figure 4(b). Geographic distribution of children under six according to the 2010 Census (by census block). This map is a close-up view of the Bullhead City area.**



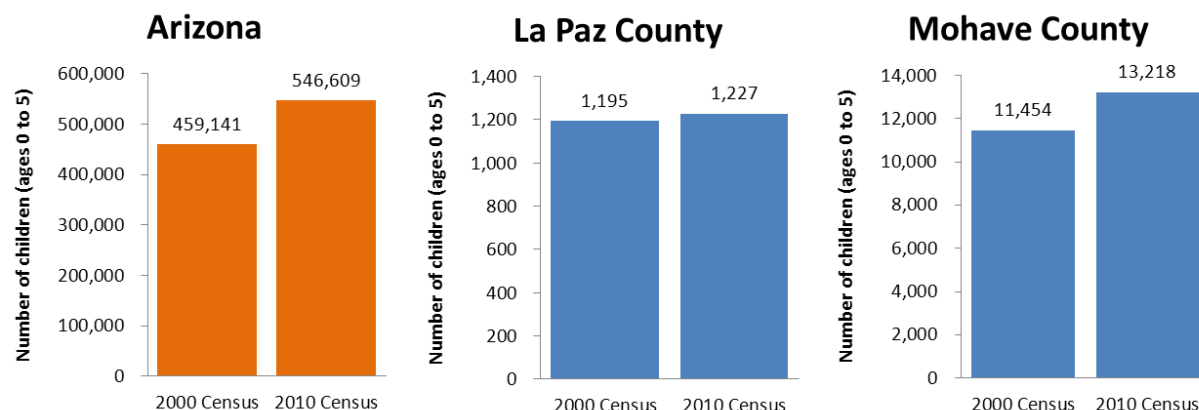
Overall, the population of Arizona has increased substantially between 2000 and 2010, and the population of young children has increased by about one-fifth. Because zip code designations have changed over time, the most accurate comparison of population change is at the county and incorporated places level.<sup>2</sup> Table 2 shows changes in population between the 2000 Census and the 2010 Census.

**Table 2. Comparison of U.S. Census 2000 and U.S. Census 2010, including incorporated areas**

GEOGRAPHY	TOTAL POPULATION			POPULATION OF CHILDREN (0-5)		
	2000 CENSUS	2010 CENSUS	CHANGE	2000 CENSUS	2010 CENSUS	CHANGE
Arizona	5,130,632	6,392,017	+ 25%	459,141	546,609	+ 19%
La Paz County	19,715	20,489	+ 4%	1,195	1,227	+ 3%
Quartzsite	3,354	3,677	+ 10%	52	90	+ 73%
Parker	3,140	3,083	- 2%	294	285	- 3%
remainder of La Paz	13,221	13,729	+ 4%	849	852	+ 0%
Mohave County	155,032	200,186	+ 29%	11,454	13,218	+ 15%
Lake Havasu City	41,938	52,527	+ 25%	2,399	2,842	+ 18%
Bullhead City	33,769	39,540	+ 17%	2,645	2,554	- 3%
Kingman	20,069	28,068	+ 40%	1,562	2,133	+ 37%
Colorado City	3,334	4,821	+ 45%	817	1,185	+ 45%
remainder of Mohave	55,922	75,230	+ 35%	4,031	4,504	+ 12%

Source: U.S. Census 2000 and 2010 (Tables P1 and P14)

<sup>2</sup> Community estimates for the fact sheets and graphics relying on those data are based on zip code tabulation areas, which provide slightly different estimates than the incorporated places estimates.

**Figure 5. Population Change for Children 0-5 in Arizona and by County**

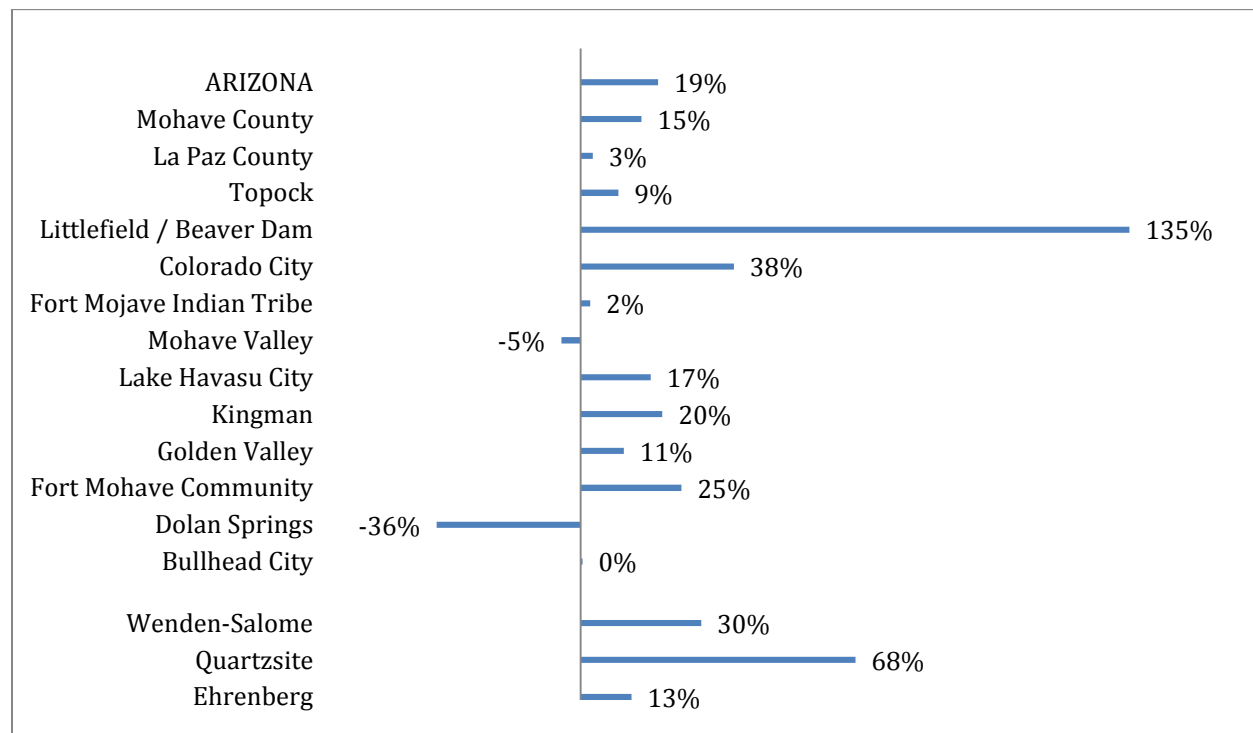
Source: U.S. Census 2000 and 2010 (Tables P1 and P14)

The population in La Paz County has grown considerably less than the state as a whole, largely because of a decrease in the population of Parker. However, some of the smaller communities have shown a substantial increase in their population of young children in the past ten years (e.g. Wenden/Salome by about one-third, and Quartzite by over two-thirds). Although these numbers are small relative to the county, they are proportionately large in those areas, and so will have increased the need for services and developmental opportunities in those communities.

Although the population of young children in Mohave County has grown at a somewhat lower rate than the state as a whole, there is substantial variation across communities in that county, as well. Some areas of the county have remained essentially static (Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Mohave Valley and Bullhead City), and some have grown in line with the state rates. There have also been some substantial shifts, however. The population of young children in Dolan Springs has decreased by about one-third, while Colorado City/Centennial Park has grown at twice the rate as the rest of the State, and the Little Field/Beaver Dam area has seen their population of young children more than double in ten years.



**Figure 6. Increase or decrease in children (0-5), 2000 to 2010, by community**

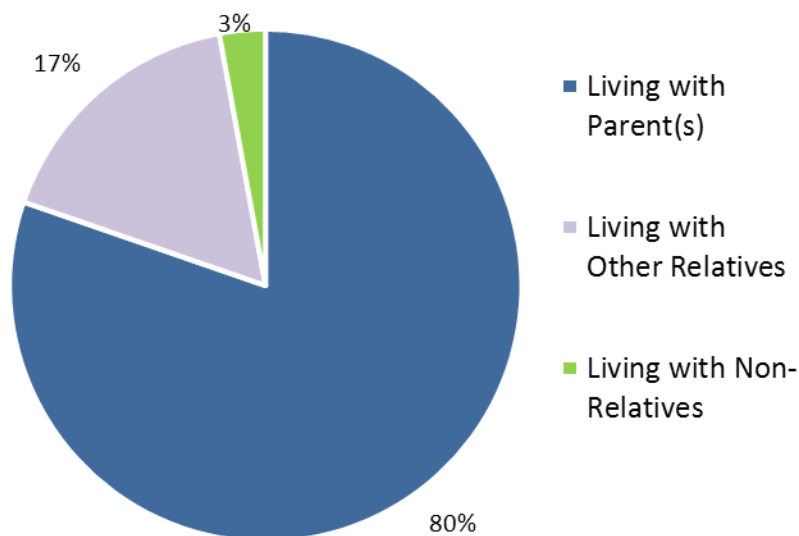


Source: US Census, 2010. Note: Data for Parker will be added.

## Additional Population Characteristics

In the La Paz/Mohave Region, about 80 percent of children birth to five years of age are living with at least one parent according 2010 Census data (U.S. Census Bureau, Tables P41 and PCT14). The majority of the 20 percent of children not with parents are living with other relatives (such as grandparents, uncles, or aunts) (2,250 children, 17%). This distribution is similar to that of the state as a whole (81% and 17%, respectively).

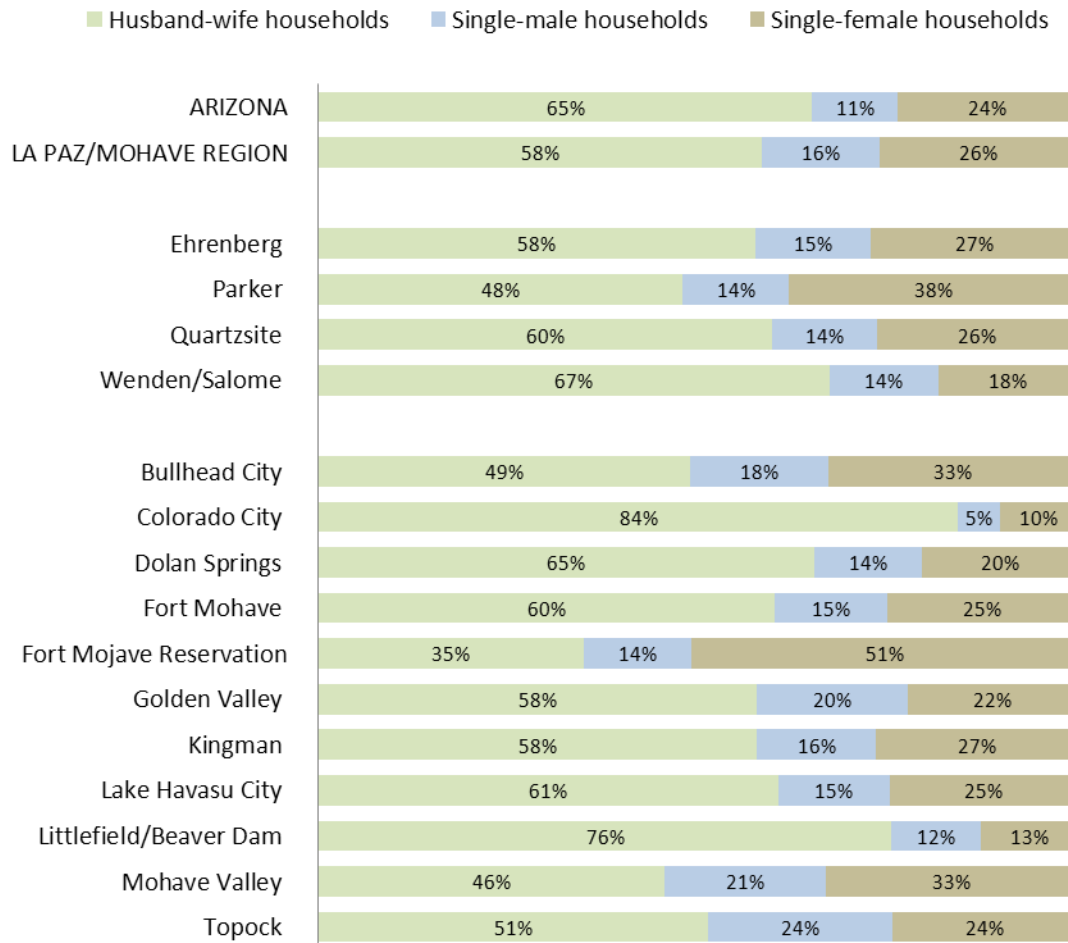
**Figure 7. Living arrangements for children in the La Paz/Mohave Region**



Source: U.S. Census 2010; Tables P41 & PCT14

Based on US Census, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2005-2009), roughly one-third (27%) of young children are living in a single parent household in Mohave County and almost 40 percent (37%) in La Paz County. This is higher than the statewide estimate of 24 percent.

Based on census 2010 data, there is considerable variability in the types of households that children are living in across the Region. Relative to the state rates, some communities have higher rates of single female-headed households (e.g., the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe), higher rates of single-male headed households (e.g., Golden Valley, Topock), or both (Bullhead City, Mohave Valley).

**Figure 8. Types of households with one or more children under six years old**

Source: US Census, 2010.

The 2010 Census provides additional information about multi-generational households and children 0-5 living in a grandparent's household. About 50 percent of grandparents with a child living in their household are estimated to be responsible for caring for their grandchildren, according to the American Community Survey. In Arizona, over 74,000 children aged birth to five (14%) are living in a grandparent's household. The Arizona Children's Action Alliance reports that in Arizona, approximately 36 percent of grandparents caring for grandchildren under 18 have been doing so for at least five years, and that 21 percent of these grandparents are living in poverty<sup>3</sup>.

The percentage of grandparents caring for grandchildren varies substantially across Arizona. In the La Paz/Mohave Region, over 1,900 children 0-5 (14%) are living in a grandparent's household. This is similar to the statewide rate (14%) and is about the same in both La Paz and

<sup>3</sup> Children's Action Alliance. (2012). *Grandfamilies Fact Sheet*. Phoenix, AZ. Retrieved from <http://www.azchildren.org/MyFiles/2012/grandfamilies%20fact%20sheet%20pic%20background.pdf>.

Mohave Counties (see Table 3 below). The proportion of households with three or more generations in La Paz/Mohave (3%) is slightly less than the statewide proportion (5%).

**Table 3. Number of children living in a grandparent's household, and number of multi-generational households**

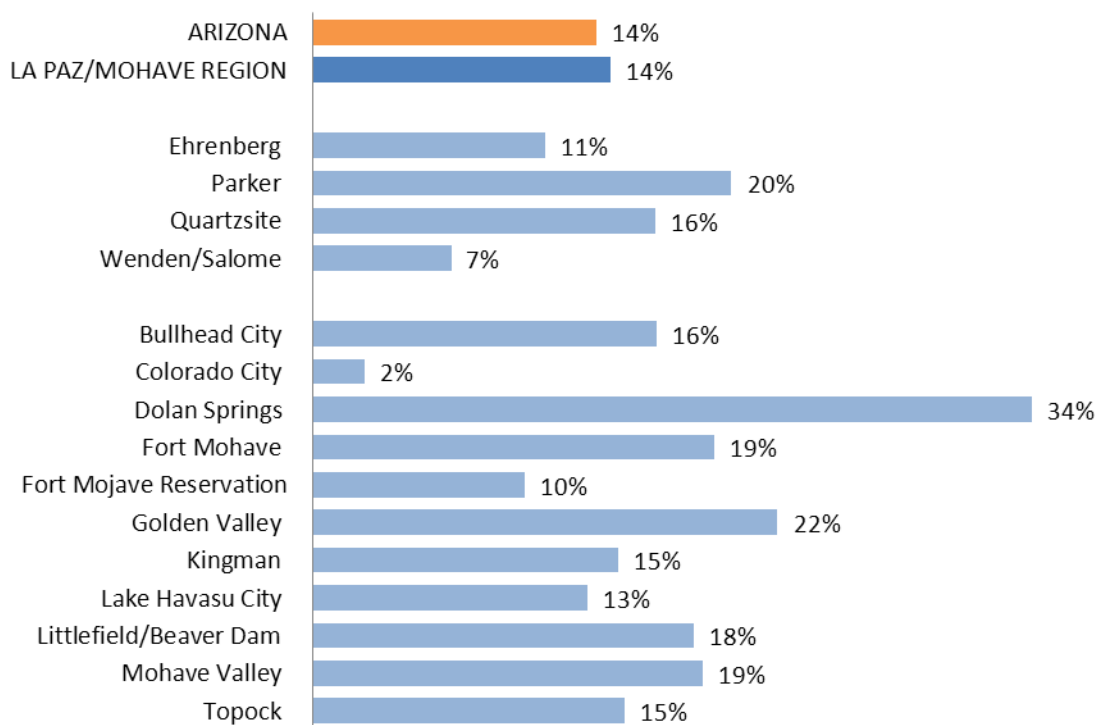
GEOGRAPHY	POPULATION (AGES 0-5)	CHILDREN (0-5) LIVING IN A GRANDPARENT'S HOUSEHOLD		TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	HOUSEHOLDS WITH THREE OR MORE GENERATIONS	
Arizona	546,609	74,153	14%	2,380,990	115,549	5%
La Paz County (including CRIT)	1,227	202	16%	9,198	270	3%
Mohave County	13,218	1,895	14%	82,539	3,062	4%
La Paz /Mohave Region	13,395	1,903	14%	88,742	3,095	3%

Source: U.S. Census 2010; Tables P41 & PCT14

Note: "Households with three or more generations" includes all households, not just those with young children.

Additional detailed information about multi-generational households and the number of children living in a grandparent's household by zip code tabulation area is available in Appendix XX.

Although the rates of children in the Region living with their grandparents are similar to the state rates overall, there is considerable variability across communities, with particularly high rates seen in the communities in the outskirts of Kingman (Dolan Springs and Golden Valley). Parenting can be a challenge for aging grandparents, whose homes may not be set up for children, who may be unfamiliar with resources for families with young children, and who may be facing health and resource limitations. They also are not likely to have a natural support network for dealing with the issues that arise in raising young children. Often, grandparents take on childraising responsibilities when parents are unable to provide care because of the parent's death, poor economic situation, physical or mental illness, substance abuse, incarceration, or because of domestic violence in the family (Pinson-Millburn, Fabian, Schlossberg & Pyle, 1996; Minkler & Fuller-Thomson, 1999; Leder, Grinstead, Torres, 2007). Caring for children who have experienced family trauma can pose an even greater challenge to grandparents, who may be in need of specialized assistance and resources to support their grandchildren (see *Behavioral Health*, on page 63).

**Figure 9. Percent of children (0-5) living in their grandparent's household**

Overall, 80 percent of the people living the Region identified themselves as White, not Hispanic (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). Of the rest, most (15%) identified as Hispanic or Latino (of any race). Very few (1-2%) identified as American Indian, Black, Asian, or Other.

However, there is great variation among some of the communities in the Region in terms of race and ethnicity.

A detailed table of race and ethnicity of the La Paz/Mohave Region by zip code tabulation area can be found in Appendix XX.

**Table 4. Race and Ethnicity by Community**

GEOGRAPHY	TOTAL POPULATION	HISPANIC	NOT HISPANIC				
			WHITE	BLACK	AMERICAN INDIAN	ASIAN or PACIFIC ISLANDER	OTHER
ARIZONA	6,392,017	30%	58%	4%	4%	3%	2%
La Paz/Mohave Region	211,367	15%	80%	1%	1%	1%	2%
La Paz County	20,489	23%	63%	1%	11%	0%	2%
Ehrenberg	1,482	32%	63%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Parker	9,147	31%	44%	1%	21%	1%	3%
Quartzsite	4,423	7%	90%	0%	2%	0%	1%
Wenden/Salome	3,547	23%	74%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Mohave County	200,186	15%	80%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Bullhead City	40,655	24%	71%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Colorado City	6,085	2%	98%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Dolan Springs	2,224	11%	85%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Fort Mohave	13,863	16%	79%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Fort Mojave Reservation (Arizona part)	1,004	25%	39%	0%	32%	0%	3%
Golden Valley	12,103	14%	80%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Kingman	51,239	12%	83%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Lake Havasu City	55,808	12%	84%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Littlefield/Beaver Dam	3,933	34%	63%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Mohave Valley	6,906	18%	71%	0%	7%	1%	3%
Topock	2,104	8%	89%	0%	1%	1%	1%

NOTE: The 15 communities are defined by zip code in Appendix XX

Source: U.S. Census 2010; Table QT-P4

School enrollment data can provide a perspective on of the differences in ethnic breakdown among the youngest segment of the population in the Region. For instance, in the Wenden-Salome zip code areas, where 74 percent of the population identifies as White, the Salome Elementary School reports that 71 percent of the students enrolled are Hispanic, and the Wenden Elementary School reports an even higher proportion of Hispanic students (84%). In contrast, the Bouse Elementary School reports that 72 percent of its students identify as White and 26 percent as Hispanic. All of these schools are located in what's known in La Paz County as the 'outlying communities,' which are 35 miles or less apart from each other.

In the Quartzite area, although the overall population is 90 percent White (

Table 4), only 46 percent of the students served in the Quartzite Elementary District (which also encompasses the Ehrenberg community) are White. A similar pattern is seen in Littlefield/Beaver Dam, where the majority general population is White (63%), but the Littlefield Elementary School serves a majority of Hispanic students (66%). [Note challenges key informants report].

The *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Arizona* (Larson, 2008) attempts to estimate the population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers<sup>4</sup> in Arizona based on data from a variety of sources. The estimates from this report are shown in Table 5.

Although La Paz County has a much smaller population than Mohave County (Table 1) its population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers is substantially larger, with 2,732 estimated migrant and seasonal farmworkers in La Paz County and only 171 in Mohave County (Table 5). In fact, La Paz County has the fourth largest population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the state (after Yuma, Maricopa, and Pinal counties). In addition, based on the data available, there are an estimated 1,035 migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the bordering Colorado River Indian Tribes Region, with an estimated 167 children 0 to 5 years of age in these households. This reflects the importance of agriculture as one of the main economic activities in the county (Arizona Department of Commerce, 2009a).

Although the U.S. census attempts to count all persons, it is not clear whether the entire migrant and seasonal farmworkers population can be assumed to be included in the 2010 Census counts. Nevertheless, note that for Mohave County the estimate of children 0 to 5 associated with migrant and seasonal farmworkers households is small (28, less than 1%; Table 5) compared to 13,218 children 0 to 5 in Mohave County as a whole (Table 1). Whereas, in La Paz County the number of children 0 to 5 in migrant and seasonal farmworkers families is large (442, 36%; Table 5) compared to 1,227 children 0 to 5 in La Paz County as a whole (Table 1). Fourteen percent of children in the Wenden Elementary School are classified as migrant students (ADE Presechool and Elementary Needs, 2011).

**Table 5. Estimated number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, their families, and children 0 to 5 years of age in La Paz and Mohave counties**

	Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW)	Non-Farmworkers in these Households	Total Number in MSFW Households	Estimated number of Children 0 to 5 in MSFW Households
La Paz & Mohave Counties	2,903	2,485	5,388	470
La Paz County	2,732	2,339	5,071	442
Mohave County	171	146	317	28

<sup>4</sup> The Enumeration Study uses the Migrant Health Program's definition of seasonal farmworker as: "An individual whose principal employment [51% of time] is in agriculture on a seasonal basis, who has been so employed within the last twenty-four months." The definition of a migrant farmworker is essentially the same, but includes that the farmworker "established for the purposes of such employment a temporary abode" (Larson, 2008).

Colorado River Indian Tribes	1,035	886	1,921	167
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Source: Larson, A.C. (2008) Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Arizona

Data about language use in the Region support the emerging picture that families in the Wenden-Salome area are likely to need additional supports in Spanish. About one in five residents in that community report speaking English less than “very well” (Census 2010) and households in that area are about twice as likely as those statewide to be linguistically isolated (having no adult in the home who speaks English very well)(Table 6). In Mohave County, families are most likely to be linguistically isolated in Dolan Springs and Littlefield/Beaver Dam, where Spanish is spoken in the home by proportionately more people than statewide.

**Table 6. Language Use in the La Paz/Mohave Region**

GEOGRAPHY	POPULATION 5 AND OLDER	PERSONS (5+) WHO SPEAK ONLY ENGLISH AT HOME	PERSONS (5+) WHO SPEAK SPANISH AT HOME	PERSONS (5+) WHO SPEAK AN INDIAN LANGUAGE AT HOME	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	HOUSEHOLDS IN WHICH A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH IS SPOKEN	LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED HOUSEHOLDS
Arizona	5,783,756	73%	21%	2%	2,326,468	27%	6%
La Paz County	19,514	82%	15%	1%	10,158	15%	4%
Parker	2,904	71%	28%	1%	1,214	28%	5%
Quartzsite	3,653	99%	-	-	2,173	1%	0%
Mohave County	187,628	89%	9%	0%	80,361	12%	2%
Bullhead City	37,787	83%	14%	0%	17,040	17%	4%
Colorado City	3,984	99%	1%	-	632	1%	0%
Kingman	25,696	92%	7%	0%	10,622	11%	1%
Lake Havasu City	49,672	90%	7%	0%	22,551	10%	1%
Fort Mojave Reservation (entire)	1,474	82%	11%	3%	577	27%	3%

NOTE: A “linguistically isolated household” is one in which all adults (14 and older) speak English less than “very well.”

SOURCE: ACS 2006-2010, Tables 16001 & 16002

Results from interviews with key informants in the Region indicate that there is a lack of services for the children of Spanish-speaking Hispanic and farmworker families, especially in the outlying communities in La Paz County and in communities such as Dolan Springs and Littlefield/Beaver Dam in Mohave County. *[Note—expand based on info from key informants in these communities on challenges]*

Although the exact number is unknown, both key informants and community members indicated that many of the Hispanic residents in these communities are undocumented and



there is a lot of fear about a possible encounter with immigration authorities that might end in their deportation. Key informants have reported that these fears often inhibit families from seeking services they may be entitled to, and have also prompted some families to leave the Region. [note: more from notes and maybe look at cross-year population comparisons, in some cases]

### Economic Circumstances

Income measures of community residents are an important tool for understanding the vitality of the community and the well-being of its residents. The Arizona Children's Action Alliance reports that overall in Arizona, disparities in income distribution are increasing rapidly. In 2010, the bottom 60 percent of Arizonans (as measured by median household income) earned only 28 percent of the state's income, while the top 20 percent earned 49 percent.<sup>5</sup> The Arizona Directions 2012 report notes that Arizona has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest child poverty rate in the country, with over 1 in 4 children living at the poverty level.<sup>6</sup>

According to the American Communities Survey, the percentage of people of all ages living in poverty in Mohave County was about the same as the state as a whole, though the level of children birth to five in poverty was somewhat higher (28% compared to 24%; Table 7). In La Paz County, however, the percentage of young children living in poverty is considerably higher than the statewide percentage (43% compared to 24%).

There is variability in poverty rates across the Region, with rates lower than the State rate in the two most populous towns (Kingman and Lake Havasu City) which provide more economic opportunities. The higher rates of young child poverty rates in Bullhead City likely reflect the income disparity between single-female headed households and other households in an area with high teen pregnancy rates. The high rate of poverty in Colorado City relative to the median income level reflects the large family sizes in the Region (with an average household size of 7.8 compared to the state rate of 2.7)

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<sup>5</sup> The Arizona Children's Action Alliance *Income Disparity in Arizona*. Newsletter received October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

<http://azchildren.org/MyFiles/2011/Gini%20Index%20U.S.%20vs%20AZ%201979%20to%202009.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Arizona Indicators. (Nov. 2011). *Arizona Directions Report 2012: Fostering Data-Driven Dialogue in Public Policy*. Whitsett, A.

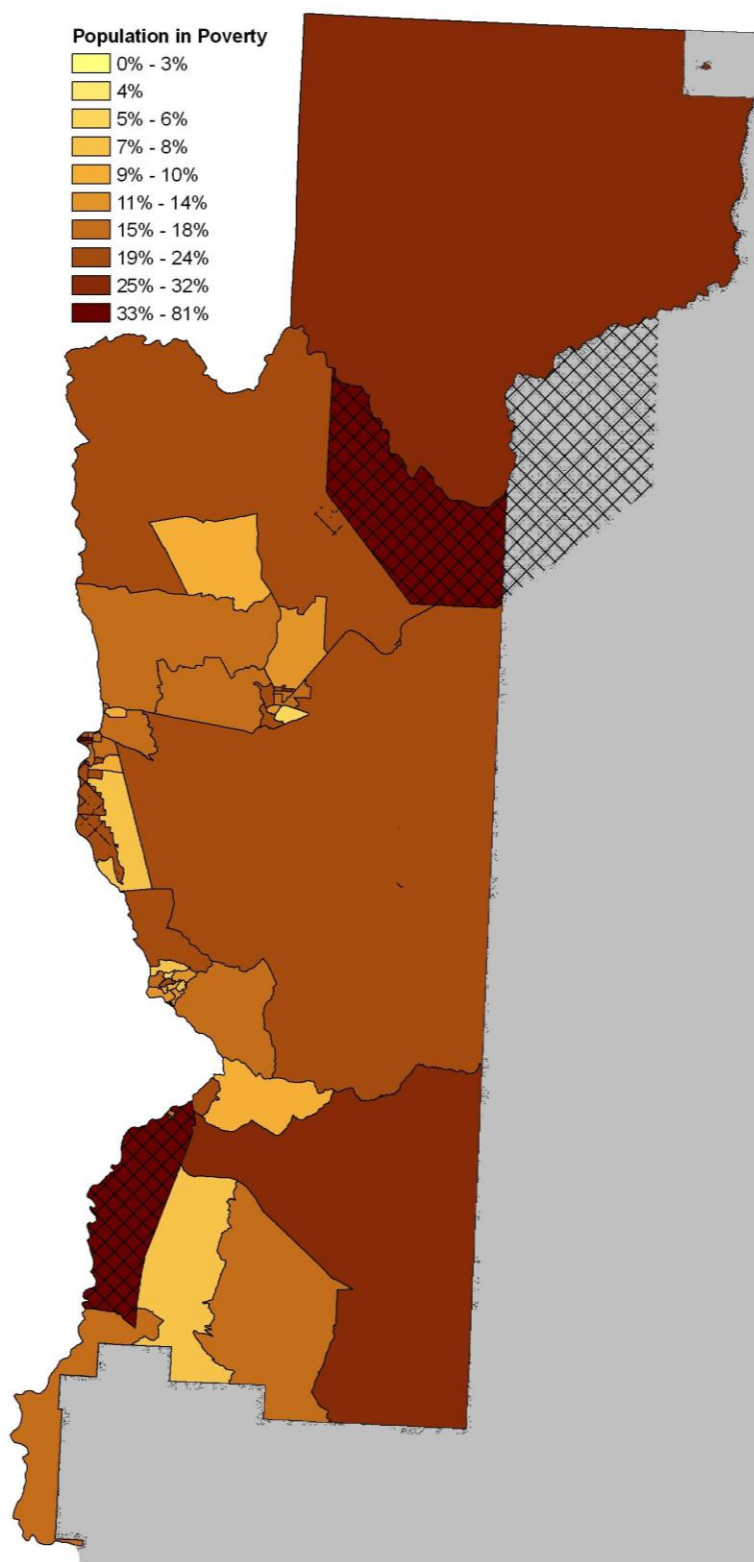
**Table 7. Median family annual income and persons living below the U.S. Census poverty threshold level, incorporated areas**

<b>Geography</b>	<b>MEDIAN FAMILY ANNUAL INCOME (2010 DOLLARS)</b>	<b>POPULATION IN POVERTY (ALL AGES)</b>	<b>ALL RELATED CHILDREN (0-5) IN POVERTY</b>
Arizona	\$59,840	15%	24%
Mohave County	\$47,530	16%	28%
La Paz County	\$37,721	20%	43%
Bullhead City	\$42,993	21%	47%
Colorado City	\$44,464	35%	36%
Kingman	\$50,357	13%	21%
Lake Havasu City	\$52,281	12%	23%
Parker	\$44,326	16%	26%
Fort Mojave Reservation (Arizona part)	\$34,375	39%	X

Source: American Communities Survey 2006-2010; Tables B19126 & B17001

These data are provided by census block in Figure 10 to give a visual representation of the variability of the population living in poverty across the Region.

**Figure 10. Percent of Population in Poverty, by census tract**



Source: American Communities Survey 2006-2010; Tables B19126 & B17001

Although the ACS provides information on smaller communities, those data are aggregated across years and so are less sensitive to more recent fluctuations (such as the economic downturn). The 2010 Census provides more recent estimates of poverty and median income as Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, though these are only at the state and county level. As shown in Table 8, the relative pattern illustrated by the ACS results remains the same, but the more recent data shows that median household incomes have fallen in the State and Region, and a higher percentage of children and families are living in poverty.

**Table 8. 2010 Poverty and Median Income Estimates**

NAME	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS IN POVERTY (ALL AGES)		ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY (0-17)		ESTIMATED NUMBER OF YOUNG CHILDREN IN POVERTY (0-4)	
Arizona	\$46,787	1,105,075	18%	401,664	25%	129,973	29%
La Paz County	\$33,818	4,769	24%	1,377	38%		
Mohave County	\$36,446	36,831	19%	13,569	34%		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Estimates Branch, 2010 Poverty and Median Income Estimates

It can be useful to look at incomes in the context of the “living wage,” which takes into account the cost of living in an area to estimate a wage rate that is required to meet minimum standards of living. Based on the work of the Economic Policy Institute, Penn State researchers developed a “living wage calculator”<sup>7</sup> to estimate the hourly wages that a family would need to earn to meet monthly expenses in a particular area. Based on this work, the living wage estimate for a single parent/one child family would be \$17.10 in Mohave County and \$14.17 in La Paz County; for two adults with two children, it would be \$28.80 in Mohave, and \$23.68 in La Paz.

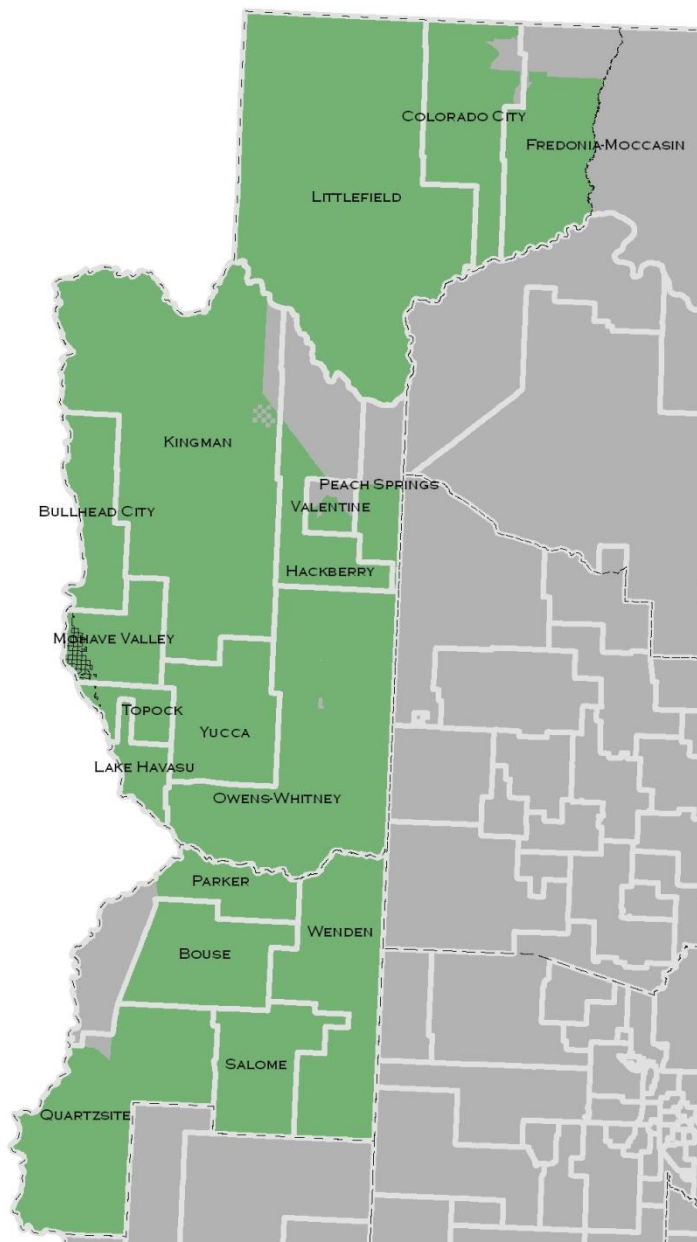
The Arizona 2010 estimates (the most recent year for which data are available) show that the median (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) hourly wage across all occupations is calculated to be \$13.47 in Mohave County, and \$11.11 in La Paz County (Arizona Office of Employment and Population Statistics). This suggests that the average single working parent is unlikely to be able to make ends meet in either county, and that both parents would need to work at better than average paying jobs for a family with two children to live comfortably. For many of the occupations employing the highest proportion of workers in each county, median hourly wages are even lower.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.livingwage.geog.psu.edu/>

It should also be noted that lower incomes, coupled with increasing gas prices, makes driving more costly; this raises an additional barrier in an area where transportation is already a big hindrance to service and opportunity access.

There are 16 elementary or unified school districts within the La Paz/Mohave Region. Poverty estimates by district provide another estimate of poverty levels for school-aged children in the Region.

**Figure 11. Elementary and unified school districts in the La Paz/Mohave Region**



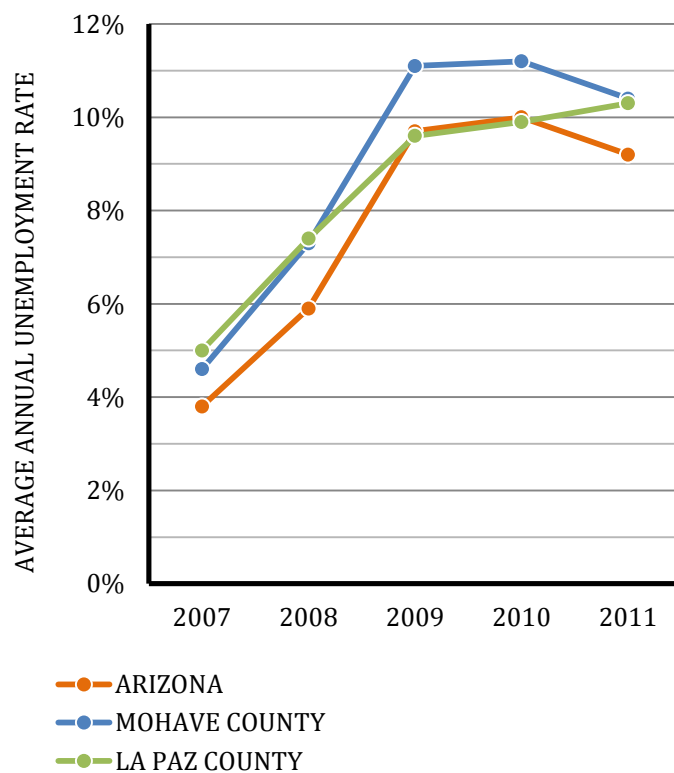
[note—order from highest to lowest estimates; need to explore these more in the context of other school level data to better understand how these compare with other indicators. E.g., the poverty rates in Hackberry and Littlefield seem low in comparison to their free and reduced lunch status....]

**Table 9. Poverty Estimates by School Districts**

DISTRICT NAME	ESTIMATED POPULATION (AGES 5-17)	ESTIMATED NUMBER AND PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY (AGES 5-17)	
Bouse Elementary District	48	18	38%
Bullhead City School District	3,877	1,754	45%
Colorado City Unified District	2,622	925	35%
Hackberry School District	111	41	37%
Kingman Unified School District	9,627	2,537	26%
Lake Havasu Unified District	7,339	1,700	23%
Littlefield Unified District	646	208	32%
Mohave Valley Elementary District	2,163	539	25%
Owens-Whitney Elementary District	63	20	32%
Parker Unified School District	1,735	626	36%
Quartzsite Elementary District	309	68	22%
Salome Consolidated Elementary District	136	53	39%
Topock Elementary District	170	70	41%
Valentine Elementary District	41	10	24%
Wenden Elementary District	106	42	40%
Yucca Elementary District	52	20	38%

Annual unemployment rates are another important indicator of regional economic average unemployment rate in La Paz County in 2011 was 10.3 percent, and 10.4 in both higher than the statewide average of 9.2 percent. As shown in

Figure 12, below, the unemployment in La Paz County continued to increase in 2011, even as Mohave County and the State have begun to decrease after a peak in 2010.

**Figure 12. Annual unemployment rates in La Paz and Mohave counties**

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce, Research Administration, CES/LAUS Unit, 2010

There is substantial variability in unemployment in communities across the Region. In some, the unemployment rate has been consistently below the State rate (highlighted in green). Bullhead City and Kingman have hovered just above the state average. Fort Mojave Indian Tribe has been consistently above the state average, but is following a similar trajectory, showing some recovery in 2011. Wenden, however, is continuing to show an increasing rate of unemployment. Three communities, highlighted in red, have had rates above 20 percent for the last three years. Of those, two showed some recovery in 2011, consistent with the statewide trajectory. Salome, however, continues to show an increasing rate of unemployment.



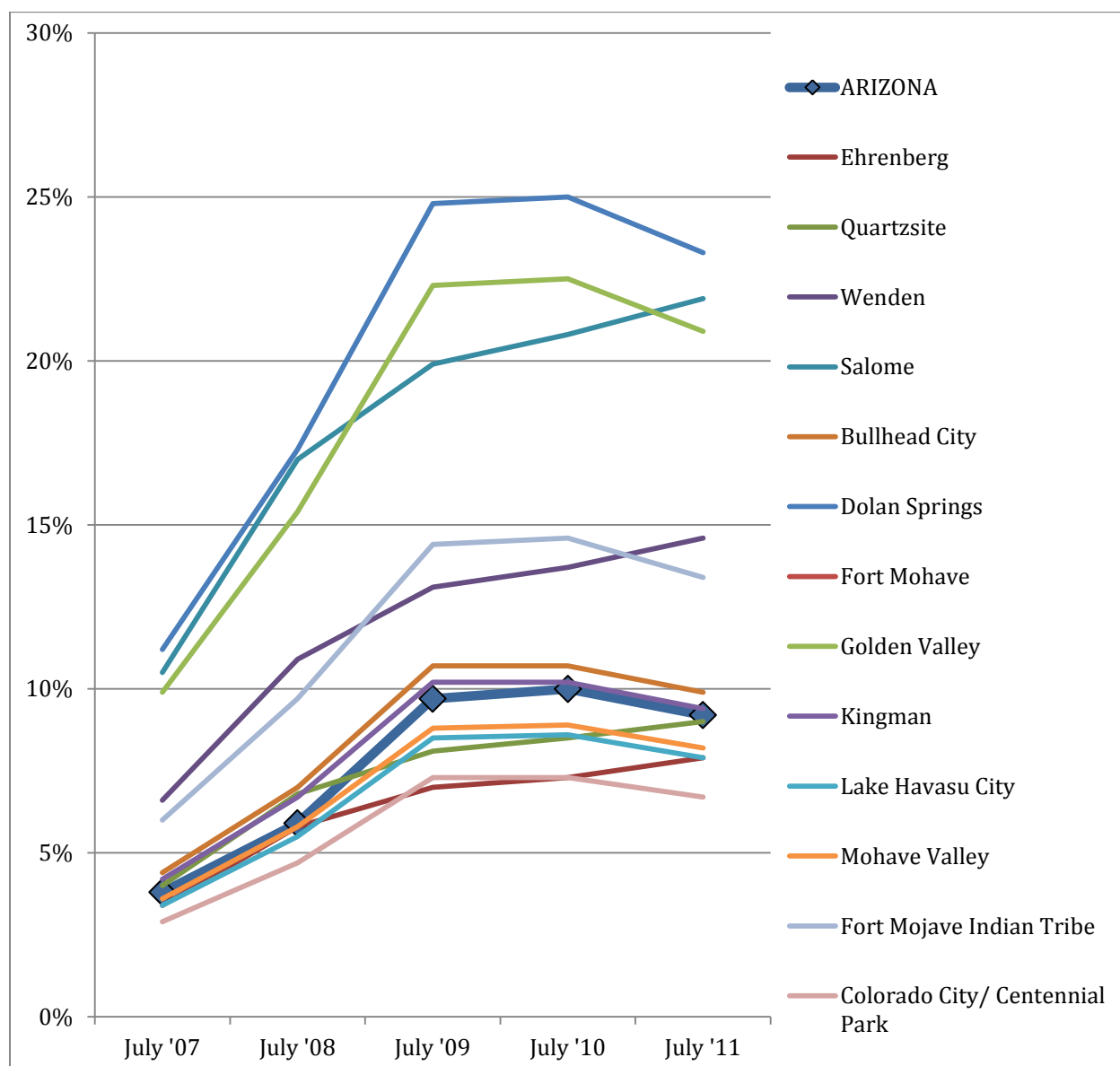
**Table 10. Unemployment rate over time, by community**

	<b>July 2007</b>	<b>July 2008</b>	<b>July 2009</b>	<b>July 2010</b>	<b>July 2011</b>
United States	4.7%	5.8%	9.5%	9.5%	9.1%
ARIZONA	3.8%	5.9%	9.7%	10.0%	9.2%
Ehrenberg	3.4%	5.8%	7.0%	7.3%	7.9%
Parker					
Quartzsite	4.0%	6.8%	8.1%	8.5%	9.0%
Salome	10.5%	17.0%	19.9%	20.8%	21.9%
Wenden	6.6%	10.9%	13.1%	13.7%	14.6%
Bullhead City	4.4%	7.0%	10.7%	10.7%	9.9%
Colorado City/Centennial Park	2.9%	4.7%	7.3%	7.3%	6.7%
Dolan Springs	11.2%	17.3%	24.8%	25.0%	23.3%
Fort Mohave				9.8%*	
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe	6.0%	9.7%	14.4%	14.6%	13.4%
Golden Valley	9.9%	15.4%	22.3%	22.5%	20.9%
Kingman	4.2%	6.7%	10.2%	10.2%	9.4%
Lake Havasu City	3.4%	5.5%	8.5%	8.6%	7.9%
Littlefield/Beaver Dam				9.1%*	
Mohave Valley	3.6%	5.8%	8.8%	8.9%	8.2%
Topock	N/A				

\*Based on average across 2005-2010, provided by ADHS (will pursue better estimates)

Source:

[Note: We can provide this information in the table or figure or both. The figure is useful for seeing the trajectories, but it is hard to make out when printed in black and white. Data for Parker city will be added to table or graph.]

**Figure 13. Unemployment rates, 2007-2011, by community**

Although home foreclosures decreased somewhat in 2011, Arizona continues to be one of the top three states for foreclosure activity (Along with California and Nevada).<sup>8</sup> In February 2012, one in every 312 housing units in Arizona received foreclosure filings in the month, about twice the national rate of 1 in every 637. Although foreclosure rates vary from month to month, La Paz County tends to be amongst the three lowest counties in the state, along with Apache and Greenlee Counties, with rates classified as “moderate” (between 1 in 700 and 1 in 4,000). Rates have been consistently “high” in Mohave County (e.g., higher than 1 in every 700

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.realtytrac.com/content/foreclosure-market-report/q4-and-year-end-2011-us-foreclosure-sales-report-7060> Accessed 6 April 2012

properties).<sup>9</sup> In Table 9, moderate rates in communities are highlighted in yellow, and high rates are highlighted in red.

**Table 9. Foreclosures in Arizona, La Paz and Mohave Counties, and Communities with available data**

<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 2012 FORECLOSURE RATE</b>
United States	1 in every 637
Arizona	1 in every 312
La Paz County	1 in every 4,012
Parker	1 in every 1,625
Mohave County	1 in every 491
Bullhead City	1 in every 573
Dolan Springs	1 in every 1,743
Fort Mohave	1 in every 255
Golden Valley	1 in every 283
Kingman	1 in every 415
Lake Havasu City	1 in every 544
Littlefield	1 in every 435
Mohave Valley	1 in every 924
Topock	1 in every 1,711

Source: RealtyTrac, Inc. Retrieved from <http://www.realtytrac.com/trendcenter> 6 April 2012

NOTE: We are searching for better data, perhaps with a time-frame longer than one month.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, nationally, the percentage of income that is derived from government benefit programs is rising sharply. Public assistance programs commonly used by families with young children in Arizona include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). In 2009, 2.75 percent of Mohave county residents' income came from income support programs like SNAP and TANF, nearly 1.5 times the national rate of 1.9

<sup>9</sup> Data assembled by Robert Benincasa and Nelson Hsu of National Public Radio from US Bureau of Labor Statistics and Nielson Claritas. Available at: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=111494514&sc=nl&cc=bh-20090807> Accessed April 6, 2012.

percent; the proportion in La Paz County, at 3.12 percent, was over 1.5 times the national rate<sup>10</sup>, reflecting the need in the area.

In the entire state of Arizona, the number of children receiving SNAP has risen every year since 2007, and increased by about 9 percent between June 2009 and July 2011. In the La Paz/Mohave Region, the number of children on SNAP increased by a similar rate (10%) between June 2009 and July 2011, though this was driven by the higher rate in Mohave County (11%). The increase was much smaller in La Paz County (3%), partly because of the slower growth in the young child population [note, compare to poverty rates, though]. Overall, children in the Region receive SNAP support at a higher rate (56%) than the state as whole (40%). The communities reporting the highest proportion of children 0-5 enrolled in SNAP were Colorado City/Centennial Park (73%) and Topock (68%).

**Table 12. Children 0-5 Receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program)**

	Arizona	La Paz/ Mohave RPC	La Paz County	Mohave County
January 2007	134,697	4,846	606	4,362
June 2007	139,170	5,030	596	4,538
January 2009	179,831	6,390	676	5,823
June 2009	199,367	6,795	715	6,174
January 2010	215,837	7,364	734	6,736
July 2010	212,465	7,436	729	6,800
January 2011	204,058	7,247	735	6,625
July 2011	216,398	7,453	736	6,839
Total number of children 0-5 (2010)	546,609	13,395	1,227	13,218
Estimated percent of children 0-5 receiving SNAP (July, 2011)	40%	56%	60%	52%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2011

The number of recipients of emergency food in Arizona rose by 85 percent between 2006 and 2009, and in 2009, nearly half of those recipients were under the age of 18. In 2009, 888,100 unduplicated individuals in Arizona were recipients of emergency food. The Hunger in America 2010 report estimates that over 10 percent of all Arizona food bank clients have a child

<sup>10</sup> White, J., Gebeloff, R., Fessenden, F., Tse, A., & McLean, A. (2012). *The Geography of Government Benefits*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/02/12/us/entitlement-map.html?ref=us>.

between the ages of 0 and 5 in their household. Eighty-four percent of all Arizona food bank recipients were not receiving TANF or other government welfare services.<sup>11</sup>

In contrast to SNAP, the number of children receiving TANF has decreased between 2009 and 2011. This is likely due to new eligibility rules and state budget cuts to the program, which have been enacted annually by state lawmakers for the past three fiscal years. A new rule which takes grandparent income into account has led to a decline in child-only TANF cases. Fiscal 2012 budget cuts limit the amount of time that families can receive TANF to two years, and are estimated to adversely affect 3,500 families, including 6,500 children.<sup>12</sup> Between June 2009 and July 2011, Arizona child TANF recipients decreased by 46 percent, and La Paz/Mohave Region child TANF recipients decreased by 45 percent. La Paz County recipients decreased at a higher rate (54%) than did Mohave County child TANF recipients decreased (42%)(see Table 10). In July 2011, three percent of children 0-5 in the Region were receiving TANF supports, compared to two percent statewide.

**Table 10. Children 0-5 Receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)**

	Arizona	La Paz/ Mohave Region	La Paz County	Mohave County
January 2007	20,867	754	117	676
June 2007	19,646	732	104	654
January 2009	24,273	879	117	777
June 2009	23,746	747	96	669
January 2010	23,866	702	94	620
July 2010	17,978	554	79	487
January 2011	13,450	357	48	324
July 2011	12,837	412	44	385
Change from June 2009 to July 2011	-46%	-45%	-54%	-42%
Percent of children 0 to 5 (2011)	2%	3%	4%	3%

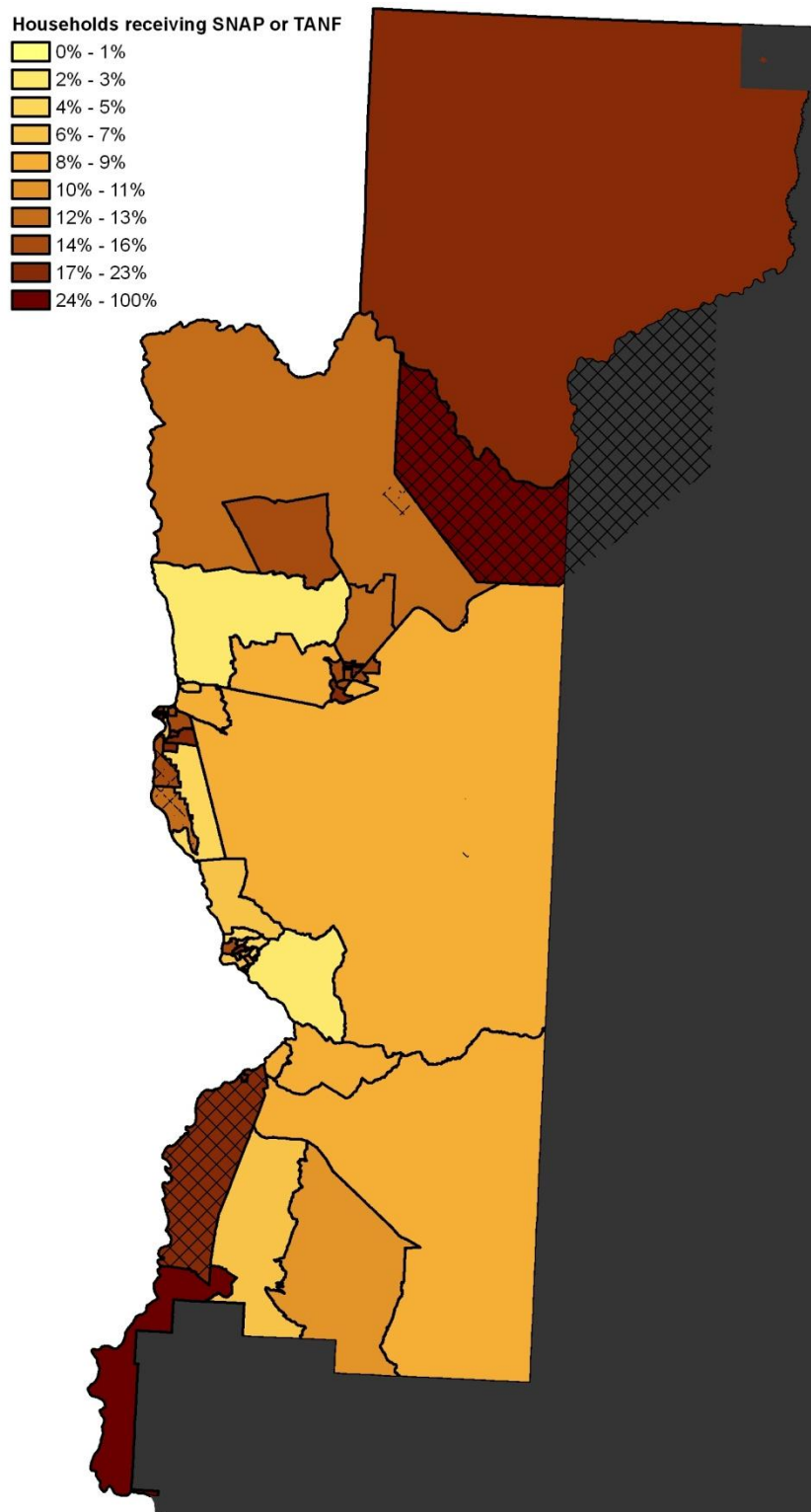
**Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2011**

<sup>11</sup> Association of Arizona Food Banks. (2010). *2010 Hunger in American Report: Arizona Highlights*. Phoenix, Arizona.

<sup>12</sup> Reinhart, M. K. (2011). *Arizona budget crisis: Axing aid to poor may hurt in long run*. The Arizona Republic: Phoenix, AZ. Retrieved from <http://www.azcentral.com/news/election/azelections/articles/2011/04/17/20110417arizona-budget-cuts-poor-families.html>

Figure 14 provides a visual representation of the proportions of households that are receiving some sort of assistance (SNAP and/or TANF) across the Region.

**Figure 14. Proportion of Households Receiving SNAP and/or TANF assistance**



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2011

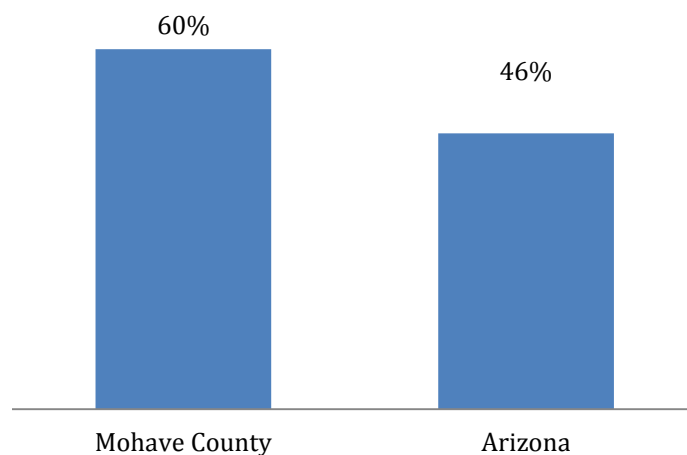
Arizona's WIC program is a federally funded nutrition program which services pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, as well as infants and children under the age of 5 who are eligible for the program. As shown in **Table 14**, rates of WIC participation in Mohave County are higher than the state rate. *[Note: We are continuing to work with First Things First Central Office to clarify these data and obtain WIC participation data for La Paz County. At present, no WIC participation data are available for La Paz County.]*

**Table 14. WIC Participants in the La Paz/Mohave Region**

		Arizona	Mohave County
WIC Participants during 2010	Women	91,322	2,810
	Infants and Children 0-5	262,805	8,399
	Percent of Infants and Children 0-5	48%	64%
WIC Participants during 2011	Women	88,512	2,713
	Infants and Children 0-6	251,531	7,920
	Percent of Infants and Children 0-5	46%	60%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2012

**Figure 7. Percentage of Children 0-5 Receiving WIC in 2011**



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2012

Free and Reduced Lunch is a federal assistance program providing free or reduced price meals at school for students whose families meet income criteria. For school year 2011-2012, income criteria were as follows:

**Table 15.**

<b>FEDERAL INCOME CHART: 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR</b>			
<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Yearly Income</b>	<b>Monthly Income</b>	<b>Weekly Income</b>
1	\$20,147	\$1,679	\$388
2	\$27,214	\$2,268	\$524
3	\$34,281	\$2,857	\$660
4	\$41,348	\$3,446	\$796
5	\$48,415	\$4,035	\$932
6	\$55,482	\$4,624	\$1,067
7	\$62,549	\$5,213	\$1,203
8	\$69,616	\$5,802	\$1,339
Each Additional Person	\$7,067	\$589	\$136

Retrieved from the United States Department of Agriculture at  
[www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/notices/iegs/iegs.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/notices/iegs/iegs.htm)

Based on these guidelines, Table 116 shows the percentage of children eligible for free and reduced lunch across the elementary and unified school districts in the Region.

**Table 116. Percent Free and Reduced Lunch by School District**

<b>School District Name</b>	<b>Percent Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch</b>
Hackberry School District	100%
Quartzsite Elementary District	90%
Salome Consolidated Elementary District	85%
Littlefield Unified District	84%
Colorado City Unified District	83%
Bullhead City School District	81%
Topock Elementary District	81%
Bouse Elementary District	77%
Yucca Elementary District	77%
Parker Unified School District	76%
Mohave Valley Elementary District	69%
Owens-Whitney Elementary District	64%
Kingman Unified School District	62%
Wenden Elementary District	54%
Lake Havasu Unified District	53%
Valentine Elementary District	#N/A

Source:

[Note: Wenden seems low, given other indicators. We will verify this number.]



## Educational Indicators

A national report released in early 2012 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation ranked Arizona among the ten states with the lowest score for children's education attainment. This report noted that low levels of adult education are correlated with low levels of overall child well-being.<sup>13</sup> Less than 26% of Arizonan adults ages 25 and older hold a Bachelor's degree or higher level of education.<sup>14</sup>

Overall, the adult educational attainment indicators for the two counties in the Region are substantially lower than for the state as a whole. [will explore the implications of this, and will provide community-level detail]

**Table 17. Adult Educational Indicators**

	Arizona	La Paz County	Mohave County
Adults (ages 25+) without high school or GED	15%	23%	17%
Percent of births to women with less than a high-school education, 2010	22%	34%	26%
Adults (ages 25+) with bachelors degree or more	26%	9%	12%
Percent of births to women with a bachelors degree or more, 2010	10%	3%	4%

Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010; Arizona Department of Health Services Vital Statistics, 2010

The primary in-school performance of current students in the public elementary schools in the Region is measured by the Arizona Institute to Measure Standards (AIMS)<sup>15</sup>. The AIMS is a high-stakes exam used to track how well students are performing compared to state standards. As of the 2013-2014 school year, Arizona Revised Statute<sup>16</sup> states that a student shall not be promoted from the third grade "if the pupil obtains a score on the reading portion of the Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) test...that demonstrates that the pupil's reading falls far below the third-grade level." Exceptions exist for students with learning disabilities, English language learners, and those with reading deficiencies. Research shows that early reading experiences, opportunities to build vocabularies and literacy rich environments

<sup>13</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2012). Analyzing State Differences in Child Well-being. O'Hare, W., Mather, M., & Dupuis, G.

<sup>14</sup> Arizona Indicators. (Nov. 2011). *Arizona Directions Report 2012: Fostering Data-Driven Dialogue in Public Policy*. Whitsett, A.

<sup>15</sup> For more information on the AIMS test, see the Arizona Department of Education's Website: <http://www.ade.az.gov/AIMS/students.asp>

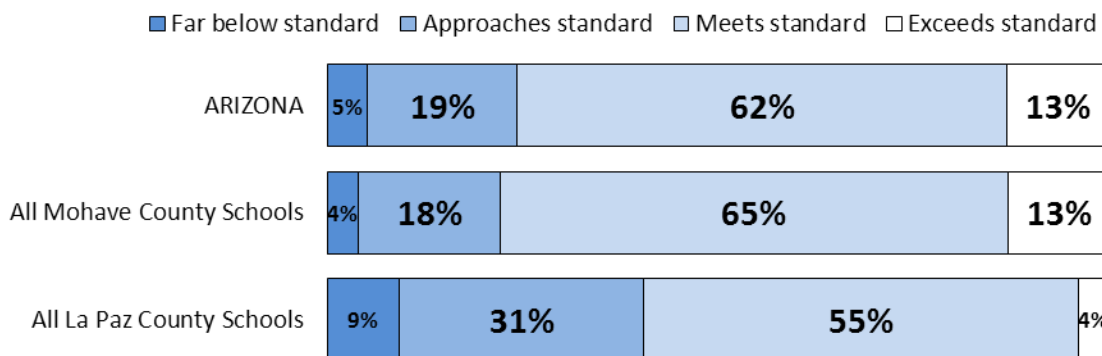
<sup>16</sup> A.R.S. §15-701

are the most effective ways to support the literacy development of young children to prepare them to succeed on later tests such as the AIMS.<sup>17</sup>

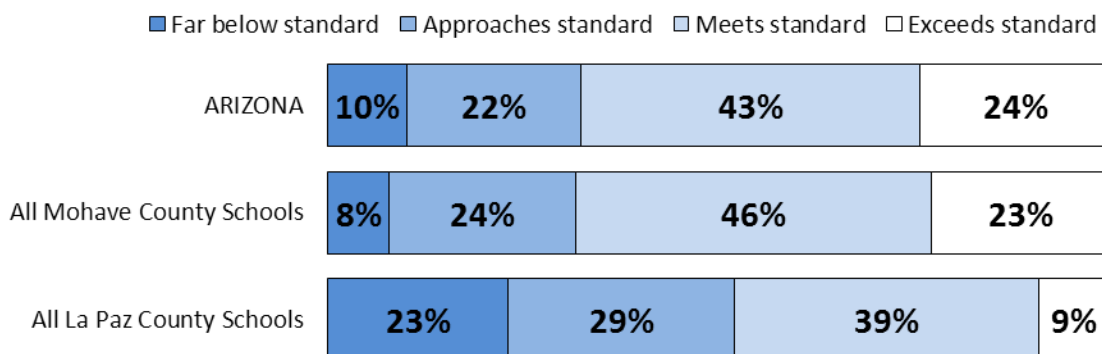
As Figure 15 shows, third graders in Mohave county tend to pass the AIMS reading portion (meets + exceeds standard) at a slightly higher rate (78%) than the state as a whole (75%). However, the rate of students in La Paz passing is considerably lower (59%). A similar pattern is apparent in math, where 69 percent Mohave County third-graders pass, compared to 67 percent for the state, with fewer than half (48%) of third grade students passing in La Paz County. In addition, about twice the proportion of children in La Paz County are falling far below the standards in both reading and math, compared to the state overall [note implications for the school districts of retaining 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and bring in information about low adult education likely hindering parental knowledge and support for early literacy that has knock on effects]. More detail about district level AIMS results can be found in Appendix xx.

**Figure 15. 2011 Results of the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) Test**

### Reading 3rd-Grade AIMS Results, 2011



### Math 3rd-Grade AIMS Results, 2011



<sup>17</sup> First Things First (2012) *Read All About It: School Success Rooted in Early Language and Literacy*. Retrieved from [http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/Policy\\_Brief\\_Q1-2012.pdf](http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/Policy_Brief_Q1-2012.pdf) (April, 2012)

Source: Arizona Department of Education, 2011

Arizona fourth-graders also take the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a nationally administered measure of academic achievement that allows for comparisons to national benchmarks.<sup>18</sup>

Although 67 percent of fourth graders in Arizona “meet or exceed standards” on the AIMS reading test, only 26 percent of Arizonan fourth graders scored “at or above proficient” on the NAEP reading test.<sup>19</sup> Arizona fourth graders made no significant gains in performance on the NAEP reading test between 2009 and 2011, and although significant gains on the NAEP mathematics test were made, Arizonan fourth graders still fall below national average.<sup>20</sup>

Mohave County reported a lower high school graduation rate than the state as a whole, and La Paz County a higher rate, than the state as a whole. Both counties reported a higher dropout rate than the state overall. Of the youth who dropped out of high school (grades 7-12) in 2009-2010 in La Paz County, over half were Native American. Native American youth in La Paz County have a dropout rate of 8.1 percent, over twice the overall county rate, and about twice the rate of Native American youth in Mohave county (4.1%), and higher than the overall state Native American rate (6.8%).<sup>21</sup>

*[Note: the graduation rate in La Paz is somewhat counter intuitive given the other data—will attempt to follow up. Can be that a smaller percentage make it to 9<sup>th</sup> grade (drop out before then, so aren’t counted in the graduation rate)]*

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<sup>18</sup> The NAEP test is a product of U.S. Department of Education. For more information, visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/>

<sup>19</sup> Arizona Indicators. (Nov. 2011). *Arizona Directions Report 2012: Fostering Data-Driven Dialogue in Public Policy*. Whitsett, A.

<sup>20</sup> U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009-2011 Reading Assessments.

<sup>21</sup> Arizona Department of Education, <http://www.azed.gov/wp-content/uploads/PDF/2010DORcountysubgroup.pdf>

**Table 12. High School Graduation and Drop-out Rates<sup>22</sup>**

	<b>PERCENT GRADUATED (2009)</b>	<b>HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES (2009-10)</b>
Arizona	76%	2.7%
Mohave County (district and charter schools)	70%	3.4%
La Paz County (district and charter schools)	80%	3.9%
<b>School Districts (excluding charter schools)</b>		
Colorado River Union High School District	83%	5.9%
Littlefield Unified District	75%	3.9%
Lake Havasu Unified District	71%	4%
Kingman Unified School District	69%	1.1%
Colorado City Unified District	61%	1.9%
Parker Unified School District	82%	4.9%
Bicentennial Union High School District	71%	1.4%

Source: Arizona Department of Education, 2011?

<sup>22</sup> The graduation rate of public high schools is a “cohort” measure of those who graduate in four-years. For example, those entering 9th grade in the 2005-06 school year comprise the cohort measured by the 2009 data (shown here). All schools are included in the county-level rates. However, charter schools, which operate independently of a district, are not included in district-level rates. High school dropout rates refer to the proportion of students who drop out of grades 7 through 12 during a single year. Dropouts include those who move to a school in another state without notifying the Arizona school; therefore areas with a more transitory population may display higher rates than other communities.

## The Early Childhood System: Detailed Descriptions of Assets and Needs

### Quality and Access

In the La Paz/Mohave Region, there are 58 licensed child care centers, including 7 Head Start Centers, and one tribally- regulated child care center (Fort Mojave Child Care Center), according to the Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) report of December 2011. In addition, there are 14 family care group homes certified by ADHS, 13 family care homes certified by AZ DES and 1 nanny certified by DES. Detailed data on each provider are found in Appendix XX.

The total licensed capacity for these child care providers was 3817 children. Not all providers have the capacity to care for as many children as their license allows; the reported total actual capacity is 3,693. This represents capacity for under one-third of the population of children birth to five in the Region (in fact, because some of the slots are for after-school care for children over 5, the capacity is actually lower).

*[Note: We will look at estimates of the discrepancy between slots available and uptake, with reference to the cost of care and quality, using 2010 market rate survey, strategic planning data and key informant interviews; will also discuss pre-k expansion either here or in summary]*

### Quality First

Quality First, a First Things First program, is a statewide quality improvement and rating system for providers of center-based or home-based early care and education, with a goal to help parents identify quality care settings for their children. The Quality First Rating Scale incorporates measures of evidence-based predictors of positive child outcomes. Based on these, a center is given a star rating that ranges from 1-start – where the provider demonstrates a commitment to examine practices and improve the quality of care beyond regulatory requirements – to 5-star, where providers offer lower ratios and group size, higher staff qualifications, a curriculum aligned with state standards, and nurturing relationships between adults and children.<sup>23</sup>

Quality First provides financial and technical support for child care centers and homes to help them raise the quality of care they provide young children. Program components of Quality First include: assessments, TEACH scholarships, child care health consultation, and financial incentives to assist in making improvements.

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<sup>23</sup> First Things First (2011). *Measuring Quality in Early Childhood Education*. Retrieved from [http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/Policy\\_Brief\\_Q2.pdf](http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/Policy_Brief_Q2.pdf) (April 2012)

In the La Paz/Mohave Region, **N** centers and **N** homes were enrolled in the Quality First program as of [DATE]. There are currently **N** slots available in the Quality First program, with **N** other applicants currently in the enrollment process. Of these, xx were rated as x star, xx as...Detailed data on Quality First Providers may be found in Appendix E. *[Note to RPC: When do you anticipate star ratings to be released and do you want to identify them? Could be done either in aggregate this way and/or individual in the Appendix.]*

### **Head Start**

Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood education program for children pre-school age whose families meet income eligibility criteria. As of March 2012, eligibility criteria for the Head Start program include: being a resident of Arizona; being a parent or primary caregiver for a child who is too young for public school; having a pre-tax household income of \$10,830 for a one-person household, of \$18,310 for a two-person household, \$22,050 for four-person household, of \$25,790 for a five-person household, of \$29,530 for a six-person household, of \$33,270 for a seven-person household, of \$37,010 for an eight-person household, and of \$40,750 for a household larger than eight person. \$3,740 may be added for each additional person in the home for larger households. Arizona residents not meeting these criteria may still be eligible for Head Start if: their income status is low or very low, they are under-employed, unemployed, or about to become unemployed, facing pregnancy, or under 19 years of age.<sup>24</sup>

Head Start addresses a wide range of early childhood needs such as education and child development, special education, health services, nutrition, and parent and family development.

The map below (Figure 16) shows how child-care providers are distributed throughout the La Paz/Mohave Region.

### **Figure 16.** Childcare providers in the La Paz/Mohave Region

*[Note: figure under development]*

### **Cost of Childcare**

Key informants in the La Paz/Mohave Region reported the cost of child care as being one of the largest barriers to child care access in the Region. As Table 13 shows, the average cost for full-time center-based care in the Region is estimated to exceed the Department of Health and Human Services recommendation that parents spend no more than 10 percent of their family income on child care [ref]. Key informants listed affordable, quality childcare as one of the largest needs in the community, particularly for those families who don't qualify for need-based programs like Head Start but cannot afford child care due to other financial circumstance.

Table 14 shows the average estimated cost of child care in a child care center by percent of median income in the Region. It should be noted that data about median income is available at the community level, but average cost of child care data are available at the state and county

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<sup>24</sup> Retrieved from <http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1897>.

levels only. The calculations in Table 14 and Table 15 were therefore made with community-level median income data and county-level data about average cost of child care.

**Table 139. Cost of Full Time Child Care in Child Care Centers by Percent of Median Income (Married-Couple Families)**

GEOGRAPHY	CHILDREN UNDER 1	CHILDREN 1 - 2 YEARS OLD	CHILDREN 3-5 YEARS OLD
Arizona	16%	15%	13%
Mohave County	14%	14%	12%
La Paz County	17%	17%	15%
Bullhead City	15%	15%	13%
Colorado City	15%	15%	12%
Kingman	13%	13%	11%
Lake Havasu City	12%	12%	11%
Parker	15%	15%	12%
Fort Mojave Reservation (Arizona part)	19%	19%	16%

As shown in the table above, infant care is most costly to families, and subsumes between 12 and 19 percent of married-couple family income in the Region. The Department of Health and Human Services recommends that parents spend no more than 10 percent of their family income on child care. However, to secure regulated center-based child care, more than half the families (those at median income or below) in each of the communities in the La Paz / Mohave Region would need to exceed this recommendation for all age groups.

It is important to note that the percentages above were calculated with the average median income for married-couple families. Single parent homes, particularly those with a single female householder, typically have a substantially lower median income in the La Paz / Mohave Region, resulting in a higher cost of child care by percent of median income. Single parent families may also be more likely to need full-time child care than married-couple families.

Unregulated homes are typically a less expensive child care option. **Table 20** shows the average estimated cost of full time child care in an unregulated home by percent of median income for married-couple families. The cost of child care in an unregulated home still exceeds the Department of Health and Human Services recommendation for all categories in the Region. This may explain why many families in the Region are likely to turn to kith and kin care, which is often provided free of charge.

**Table 14. Cost of Full Time Child Care in Unregulated Homes by Percent of Median Income (Married-Couple Families)**

GEOGRAPHY	CHILDREN UNDER 1	CHILDREN 1 -2 YEARS OLD	CHILDREN 3-5 YEARS OLD
Arizona	10%	10%	10%
Mohave County	13%	13%	13%
La Paz County	17%	17%	17%
Bullhead City	15%	15%	15%
Colorado City	14%	14%	14%
Kingman	12%	12%	12%
Lake Havasu City	12%	12%	12%
Parker	14%	14%	14%
Fort Mojave Reservation (Arizona part)	18%	18%	18%

*[will provide additional qualitative findings about childcare in the Region]*

## Professional Development

Formal educational attainment of Early Childhood Education (ECE) staff is linked with improved quality of care in early care and education settings. The Compensation and Credentials Survey is a statewide survey that assess the education and pay of the early care and education workforce in Arizona (Arizona Children's Action Alliance, 2008). Results from the 2007 survey show that across the state of Arizona, 27 percent of employers required at least some college for Teachers and 12 percent required the same for Assistant Teachers. The percentage of employers across the state requiring this level of education from Teachers had decreased over the previous 10 years, from a high of 39% in 2009. The median salary for Assistant Teachers was \$9.00 per hour and the median salary for teachers was \$9.75 per hour in 2007, and these wages for early care and education workers across the state increased little over a 10 year period. *[provide updates to this information, if available... haven't been able to find more recent info yet...]*

The La Paz/Mohave Region is served by seven WACOG Head Start Centers; three in Kingman, one in Mohave Valley, one in Golden Valley, one in Lake Havasu City, and one in Ehrenberg [Parker also serves LPMRPC—will need to decide how to handle that one...]. For the La Paz/Mohave Region Head Start programs, **N%** of classroom teachers had a degree in ECE or a related field *(source from Program Information Report)*. *[provide additional information about the educational background of Head Start teachers in the area, and the new requirement for a BA]*



According to the Head Start Program Information Report *[year]*, the average salary for a bachelors-level Head Start teacher in the La Paz/Mohave Region was \$\$\$\$\$. Statewide, the annual salary average was *[lower/higher]* at \$\$\$\$\$. The teacher turnover rate was *[higher/lower]* in the *La Paz/Mohave* Region, (**N%** per year) than in the state as a whole (**N%** per year). About **N%** of all staff care current or former Head Start parents.

First Things First offers Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Scholarships to support child care providers in their pursuit of their CDA certification or Associate of Arts (AA) certificate/degree. Through participation in TEACH, child care providers, directors and assistant directors, teachers, and assistant teachers working in licensed or regulated private, public and Tribal programs are able to participate in 9-15 college credits of college coursework leading to their CDA (Child Development Associates) credential. A Bachelors Degree model of the TEACH program is also currently being developed. As of *[date]*, there were **N** child care professionals in the *La Paz/Mohave* Region who had received TEACH scholarships to take coursework leading to an associate's degree. Statewide, **N** scholarships were awarded.

**Availability of certification, credentials or degree programs**  
*[will describe professional development opportunities in the Region]*

**Table 21. Available certification, credential, or degree programs**  
*[will provide additional information about available training programs and opportunities]*

## Health

### Access to Care

Families throughout the La Paz/Mohave Region face several challenges to receiving adequate health care for their children. The Arizona Department of Health Primary Care Area Program designates Arizona Medically Underserved Areas (AzMUAs) in order to identify portions of the state that may have inadequate access to health care. These Primary Care areas are geographically based areas in which most residents seek primary medical care within the same places.<sup>25</sup> The labels for the Primary Care Areas are drawn from the major population centers for those areas. Each Primary Care Area also carries a designation based on its population density; areas designated as rural are those with 44 people or fewer per square mile, and frontier areas are those with 3 people or fewer per square mile (Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Health Systems Development, 2010). This allows for comparison of the Primary Care Areas in the Region to other sparsely populated portions of the state. Areas including Tribal nations are given their own designation (Indian).

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<sup>25</sup> Definition based on Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health Services Data Documentation for Primary Care Area and Special Area Statistical profiles. Bureau of Health Systems Development.

There are ten Primary Care Areas within the Region:

*Mohave County:*

- Littlefield (frontier) (includes Beaver Dam and Colorado City)
- Dolan Springs (frontier)
- Kingman (rural) (includes Golden Valley)
- Bullhead City (rural)
- Fort Mohave (rural) (includes Mohave Valley and Topock)
- Lake Havasu City (rural)
- Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (Indian)

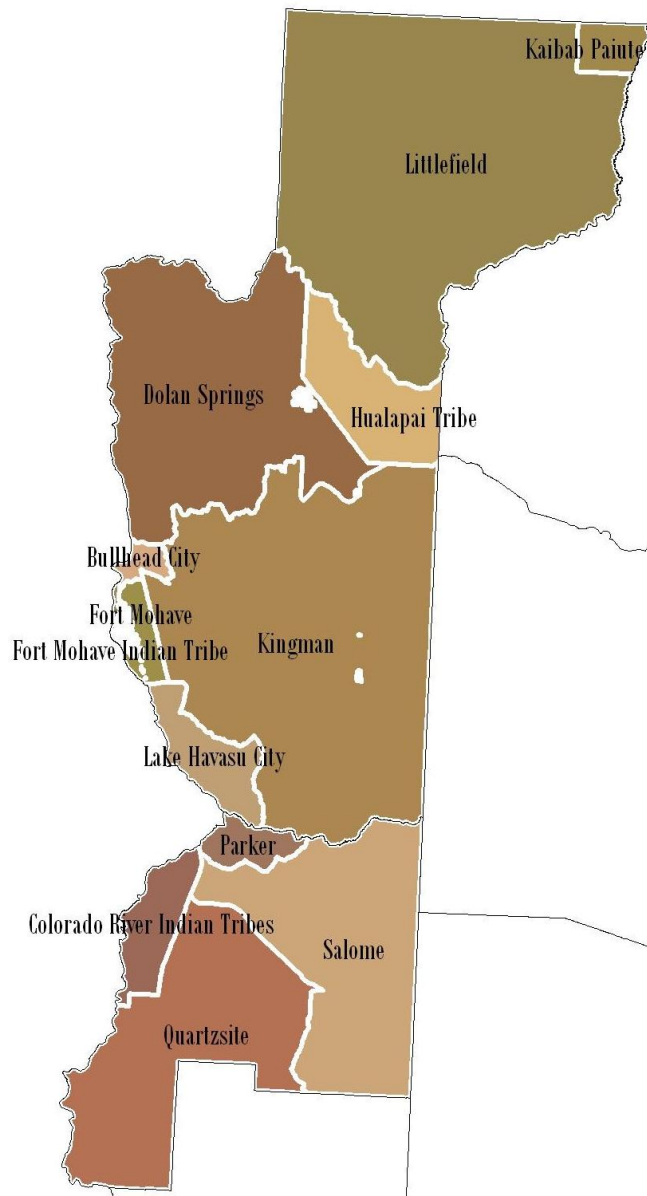
*La Paz County*

- Parker (rural)
- Quartzsite (frontier)
- Salome (frontier) (includes Wenden)

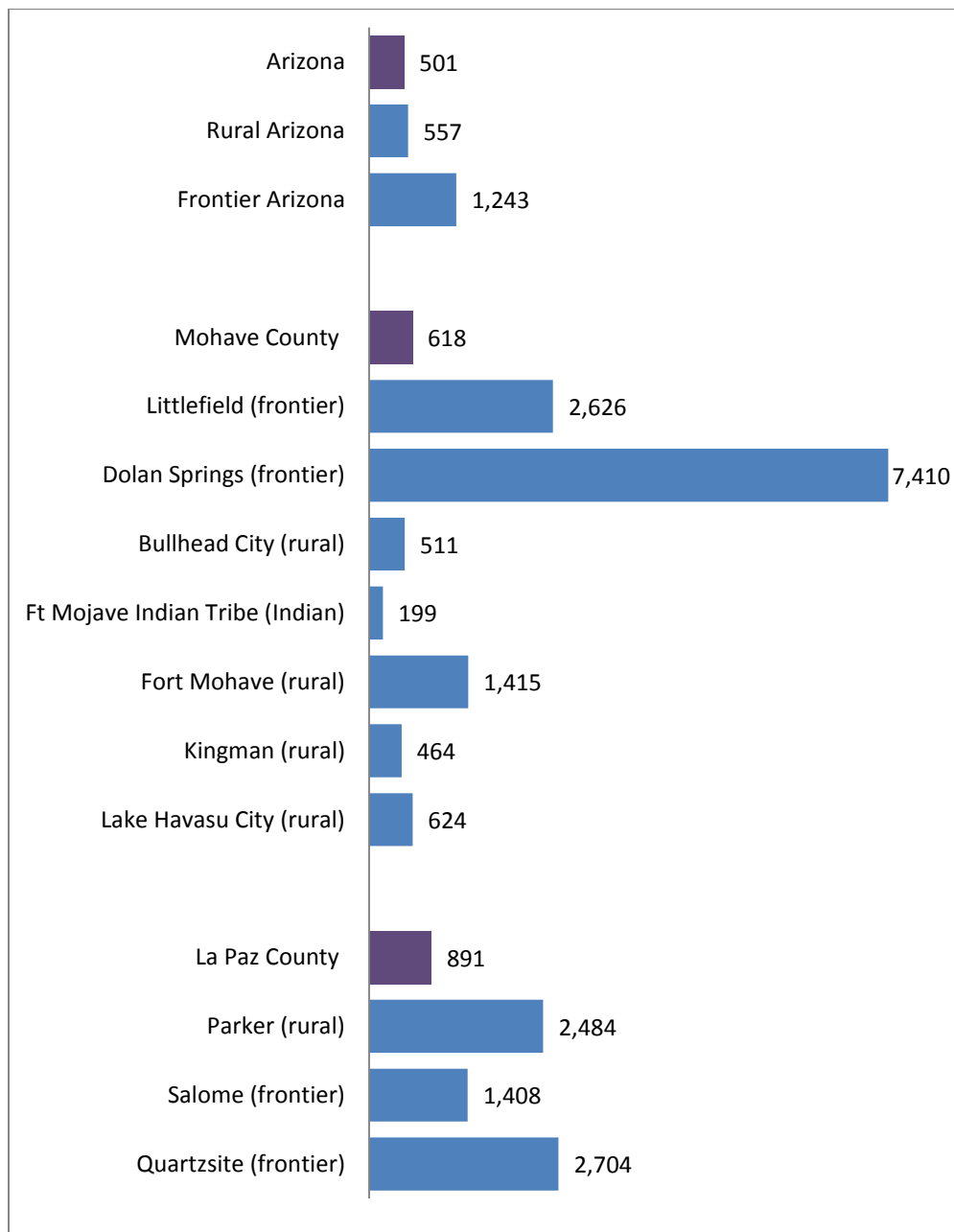
The communities included within each area of the Region are listed in Appendix XX.

Each Primary Care Area is given a score based on 14 weighted items including points given for ambulatory sensitive conditions, population ratio, transportation score, percentage of population below poverty, percentage of uninsured births, low birth weight births, prenatal care, percentage of death before the U.S. birth life expectancy, infant mortality rate, and percent minorities, elderly, and unemployed. Based on their scores, all but one of the 10 Primary Care Areas in the Region (Lake Havasu City) are designated as Medically Underserved.

Data about the ratio of population to primary care providers in the various Primary Care Areas is a clear indicator of the healthcare infrastructure within the Region. As shown in Figure 17 below...*[will discuss]*



**Figure 17. Ratio of Population to Primary Care Providers, 2011**

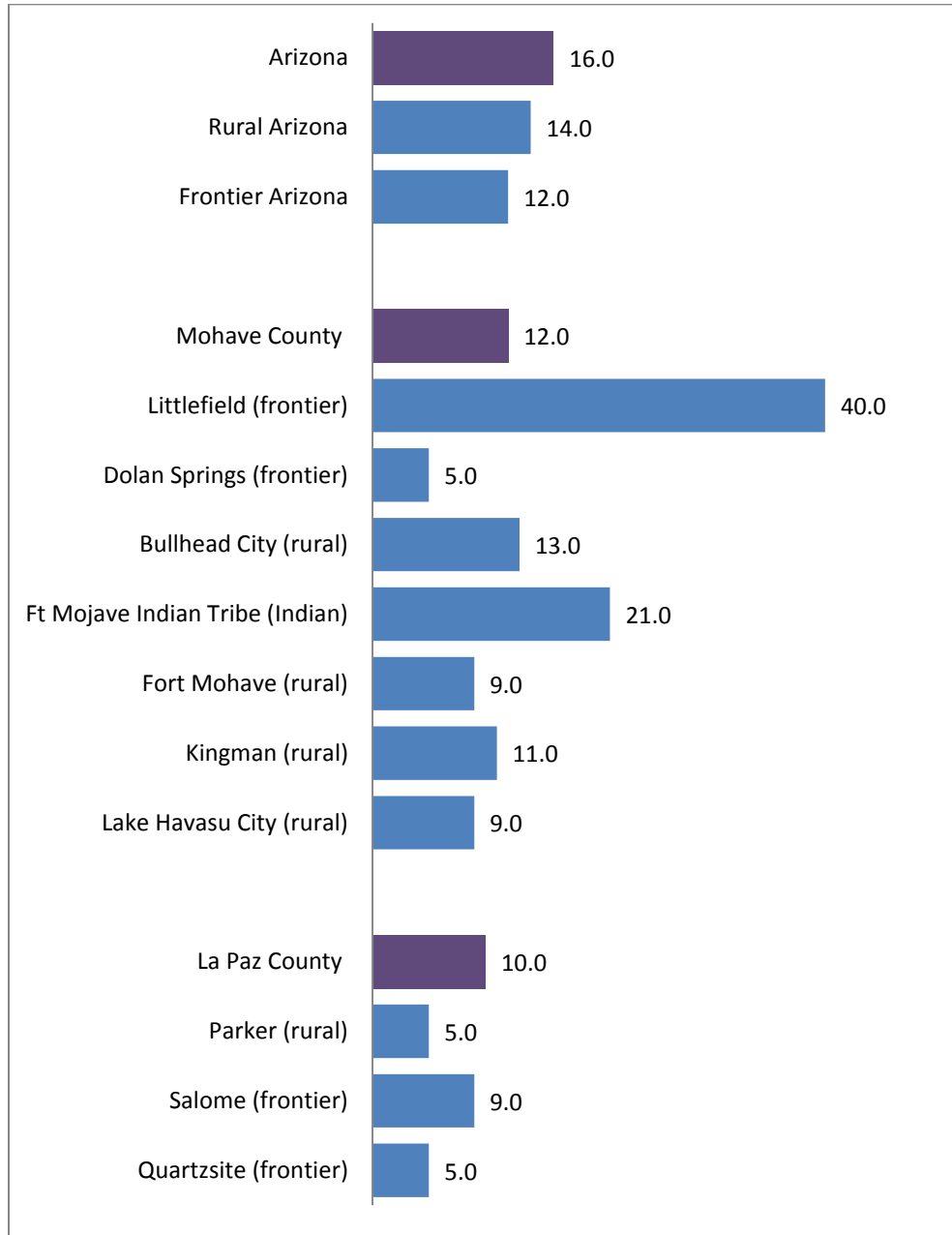


(Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, January 2012)

*[provide details about hospitals and clinics in the region; input from key informants]*

## Pregnancies and Births

**Figure 18. Birth Rate per 1000 residents (avg 2000-2009)**



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, January 2012

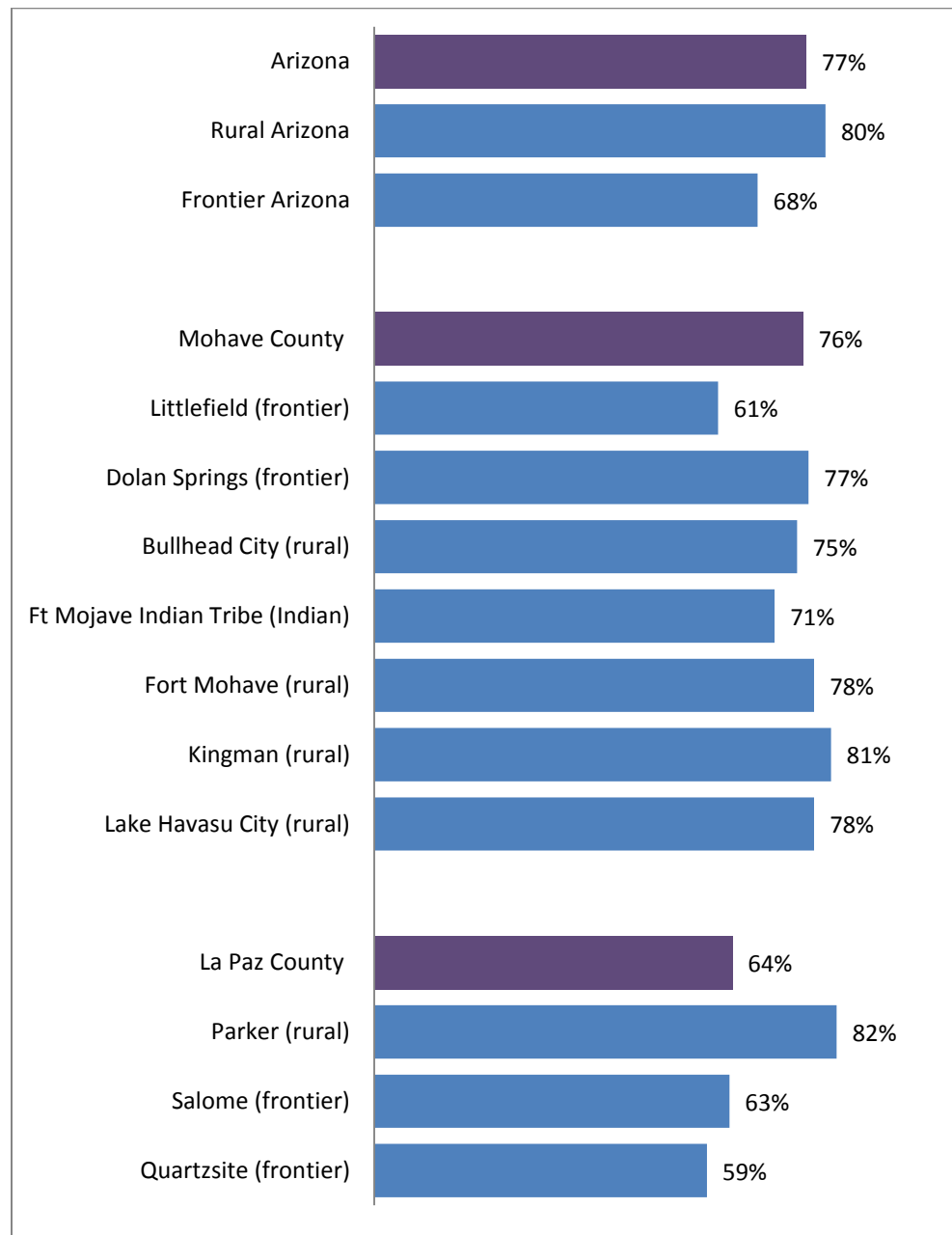
Many of the risk factors for poor birth and neonatal outcomes can be mitigated by good prenatal care, which is most effective if delivered early and throughout pregnancy to provide risk assessment, treatment for medical conditions or risk reduction, and education. Research

has suggested that the benefits of prenatal care are most pronounced for socioeconomically disadvantaged women, and prenatal care decreases the risk of neonatal mortality, infant mortality, premature births, and low-birth-weight births<sup>26</sup>. Care should ideally begin in the first trimester, and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) recommends at least 13 prenatal visits for a full-term pregnancy; seven visits or fewer prenatal care visits are considered an inadequate number (ACOG, 2002).

[explanatory text about prenatal care in the Region, as in the graph below] **Error! Reference source not found.** illustrates the variability in early prenatal care across the Region.

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<sup>26</sup> Kiely, J.L. & Kogan, M.D. *Prenatal Care*. From Data to Action: CDC's Public Health Surveillance for Women, Infants, and Children. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from: <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/ProductsPubs/DataAction/pdf/rhow8.pdf>

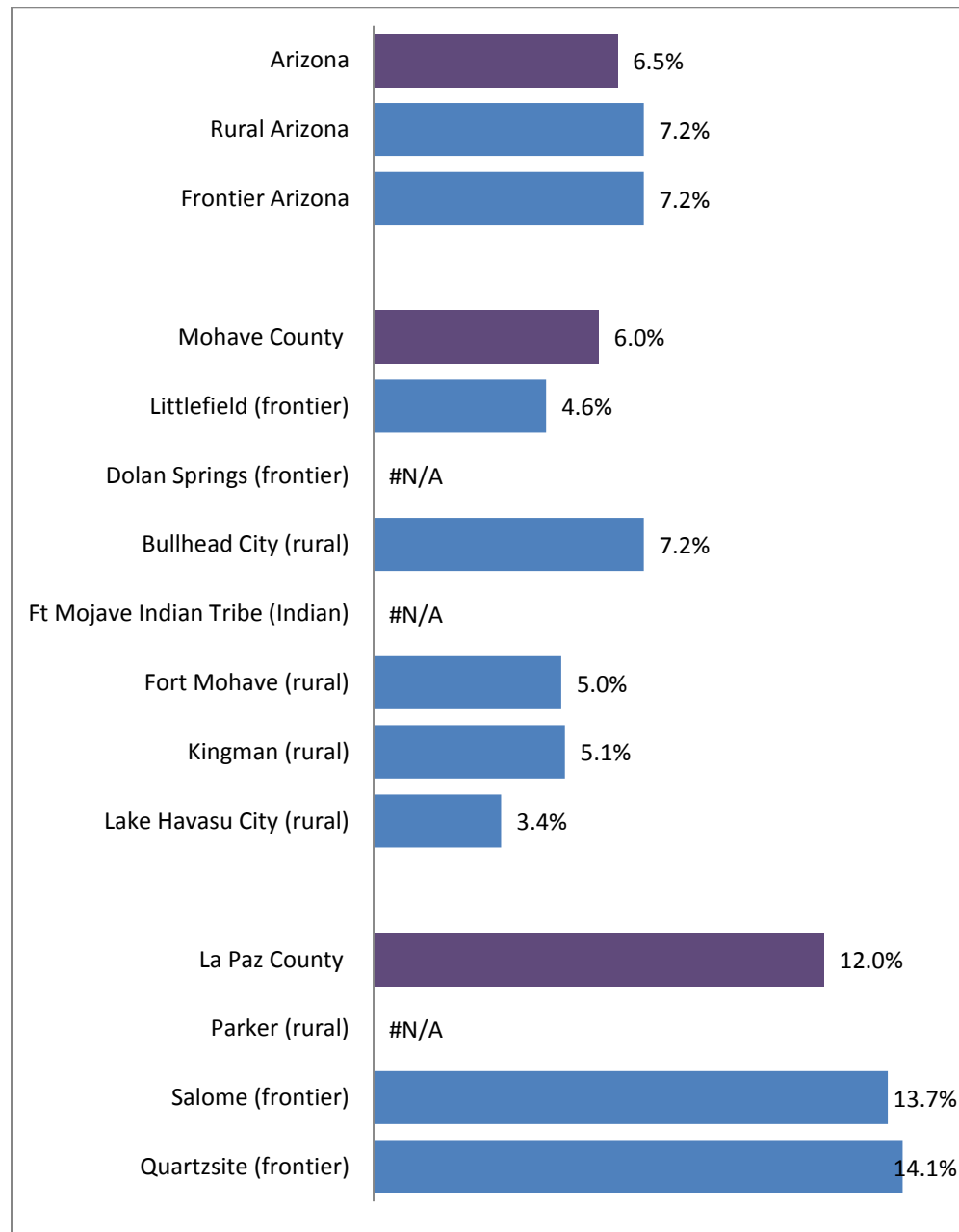
**Figure 19. Percent of Births with Prenatal Care Begun First Trimester (avg 2000-2009)**

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, January 2012

The Healthy People 2020 target shown in the graph above was produced by HealthyPeople.gov, a science-based initiative which provides 10-year national objectives for improving the health of Americans. Healthy People 2020 targets are developed with the use of current health data, baseline measures, and areas for specific improvement. The Healthy People 2020 target for receiving prenatal care in the first trimester is 77.9%.

The Healthy People 2020 target in Figure 20 below shows the target proportion of pregnant women who receive “early and adequate prenatal care”. *[explanatory text comparing the communities in the Region to the HP2020 objective]*

**Figure 20.** Average Percent of Births with Fewer Than Five Prenatal Care Visits

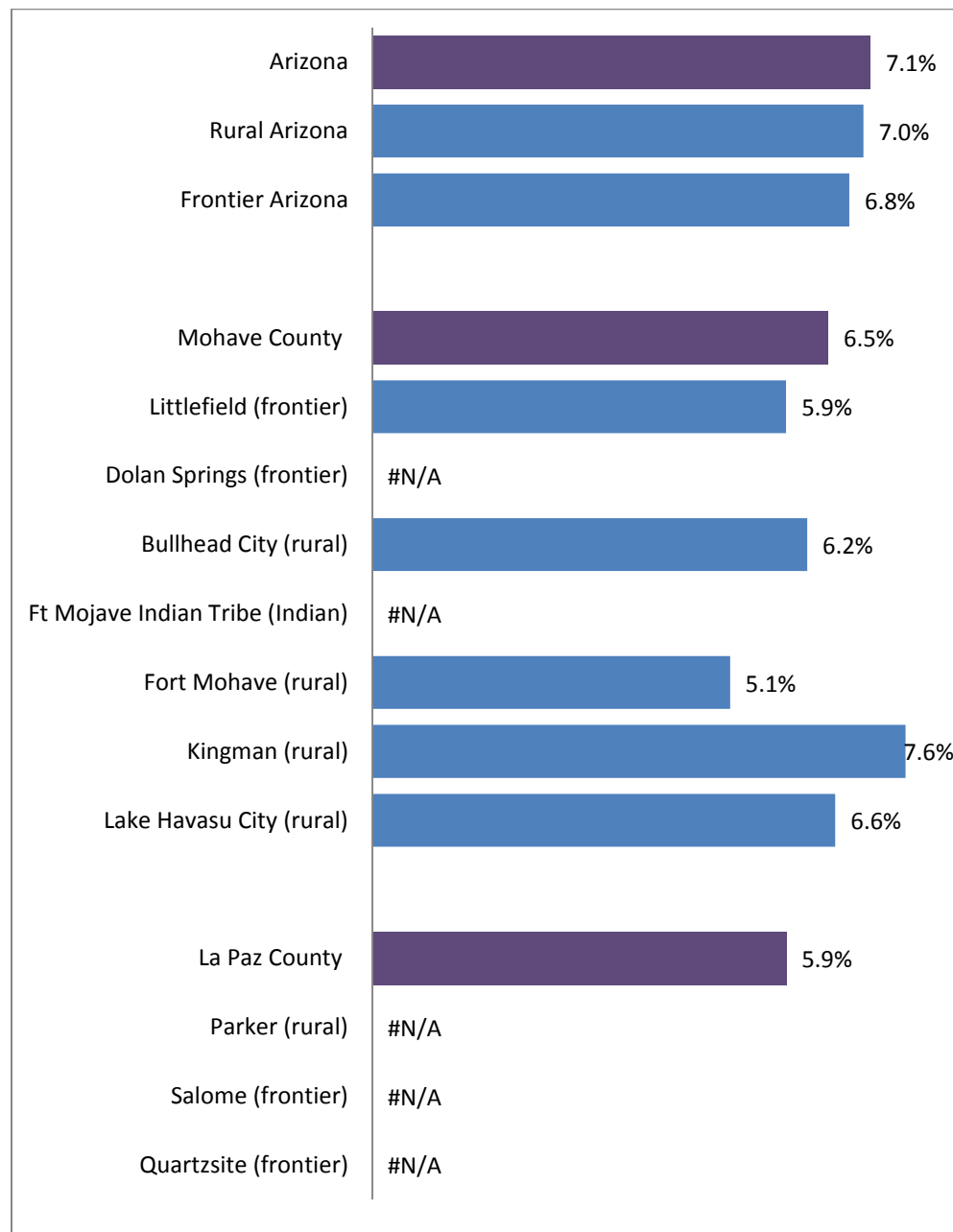


Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, January 2012

Low birth weight is the risk factor most closely associated with neonatal death; thus, improvements in infant birth weight can contribute substantially to reductions in the infant

mortality rate. As shown in, **Error! Reference source not found.** [text comparison of low birth weights in the Region to statewide trends and HP2020 target)

**Figure 21. Average Percent of Low Birth Weight (5 lbs, 8 oz or less) Births**



**Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, January 2012**

Another factor related to low birth weight is birth to a teenage mother, particularly for teenage mothers under 18 years of age. Teenage parenthood is associated with a number of other negative outcomes for infants, including neonatal death, sudden infant death syndrome, child abuse and neglect, as well as putting infants at risk for behavioral and educational problems later (Office of Population Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, 2010). In

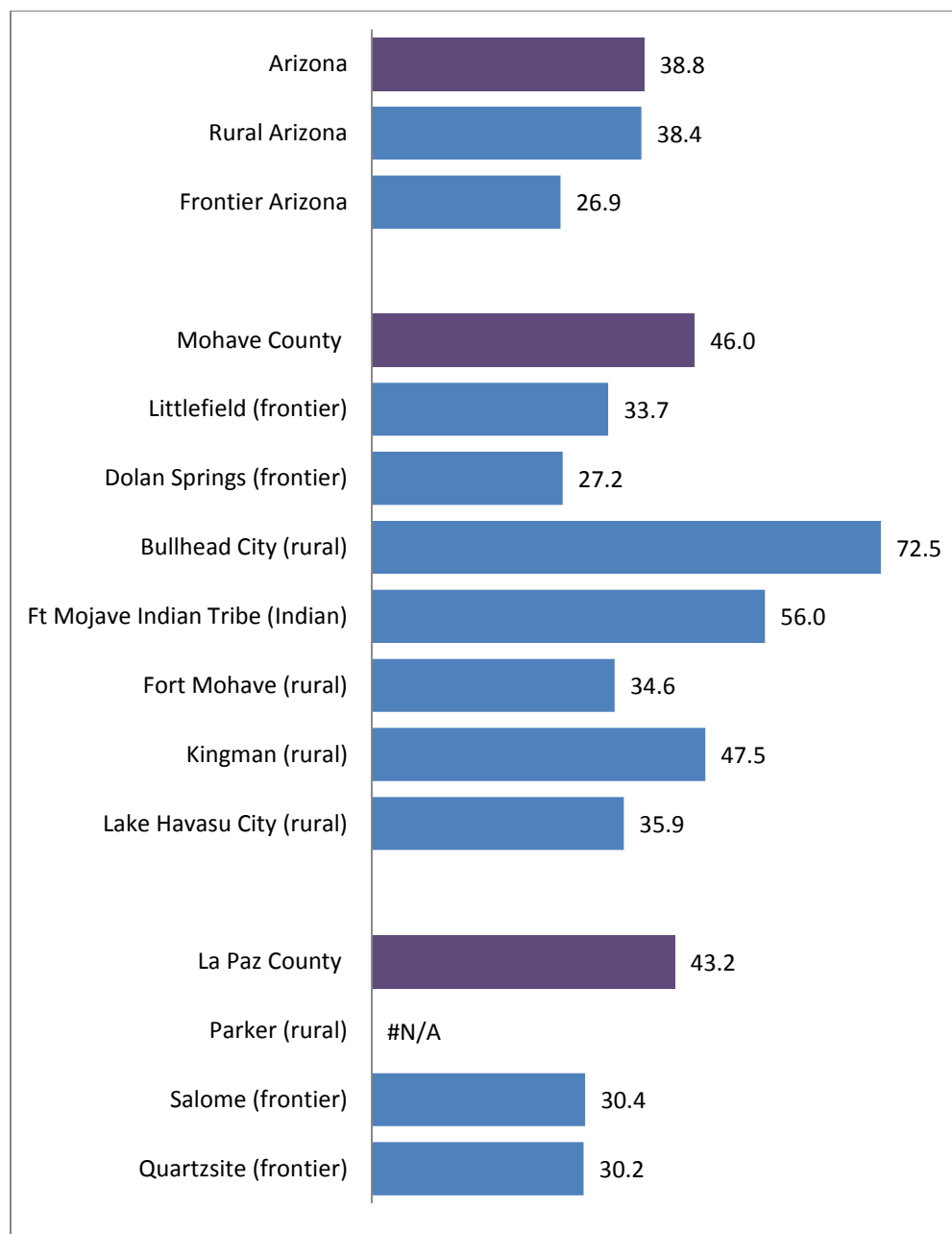


addition, teenaged mothers are less likely to get or stay married, less likely to complete high school or college, and more likely to require public assistance and to live in poverty than their peers who are not mothers. *[Note: We will include text here to try to differentiate between younger and older teen outcomes]*

Teen pregnancy and birth continues to be a statewide issue in Arizona, which ranks fifth highest nationally for teen births (Guttmacher Institute, 2010), with a birthrate 23 percent higher than the most recent national estimates (22.2/1000 females 15-17). Although the number of teen births in Arizona has dramatically decreased in recent years, Arizona still has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest teen birth rate nationally<sup>27</sup>. In 2009, nearly 12% of all births in Arizona were to mothers under the age of 19. As shown in Figure 22 below, this number is xxx in La Paz/Mohave *[will confirm]*. The Healthy People 2020 target for reducing low birth weight is 7.8%.

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<sup>27</sup> Arizona Indicators. (Nov. 2011). *Arizona Directions Report 2012: Fostering Data-Driven Dialogue in Public Policy*. Whitsett, A.

**Figure 22. Average Rate of Teen Births per 1,000 Females 14-19 years old**

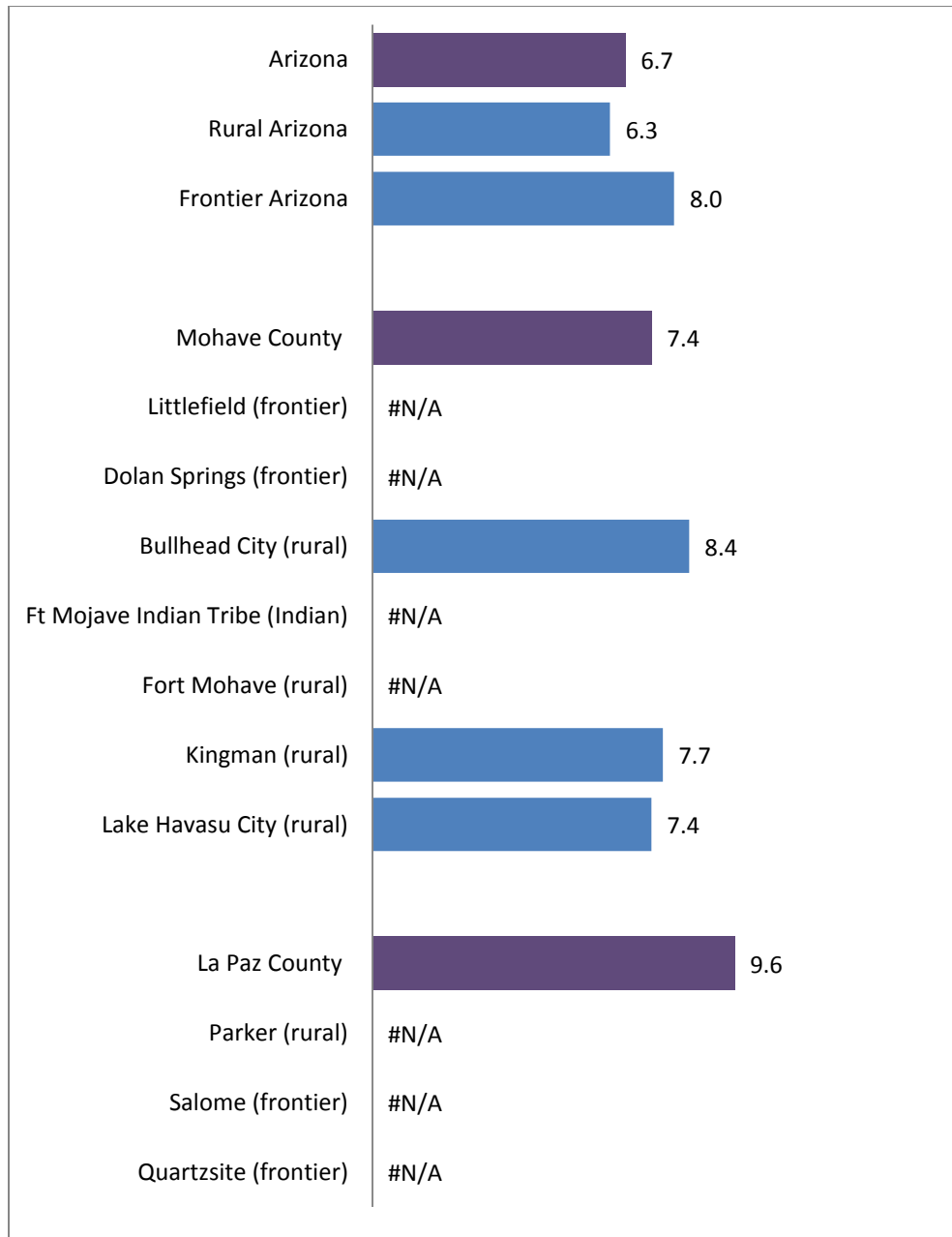
**Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, January 2012**

Because teen parenthood has so many far-reaching consequences for mother and baby alike, these rates indicate that teen parenthood services for teen parents may be important strategies to consider to improve the well-being of young children in these areas. *[provide community-specific information as appropriate]*

One of the consequences that has been linked to high teen birth rates, among other factors, is high infant mortality. As shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** below, *[provide*

*comparative information about infant mortality]* The Healthy People 2020 target for all infant deaths is 6.0 infant deaths or fewer per 1,000 live births.

**Figure 23. Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births (avg 2000-2009)**

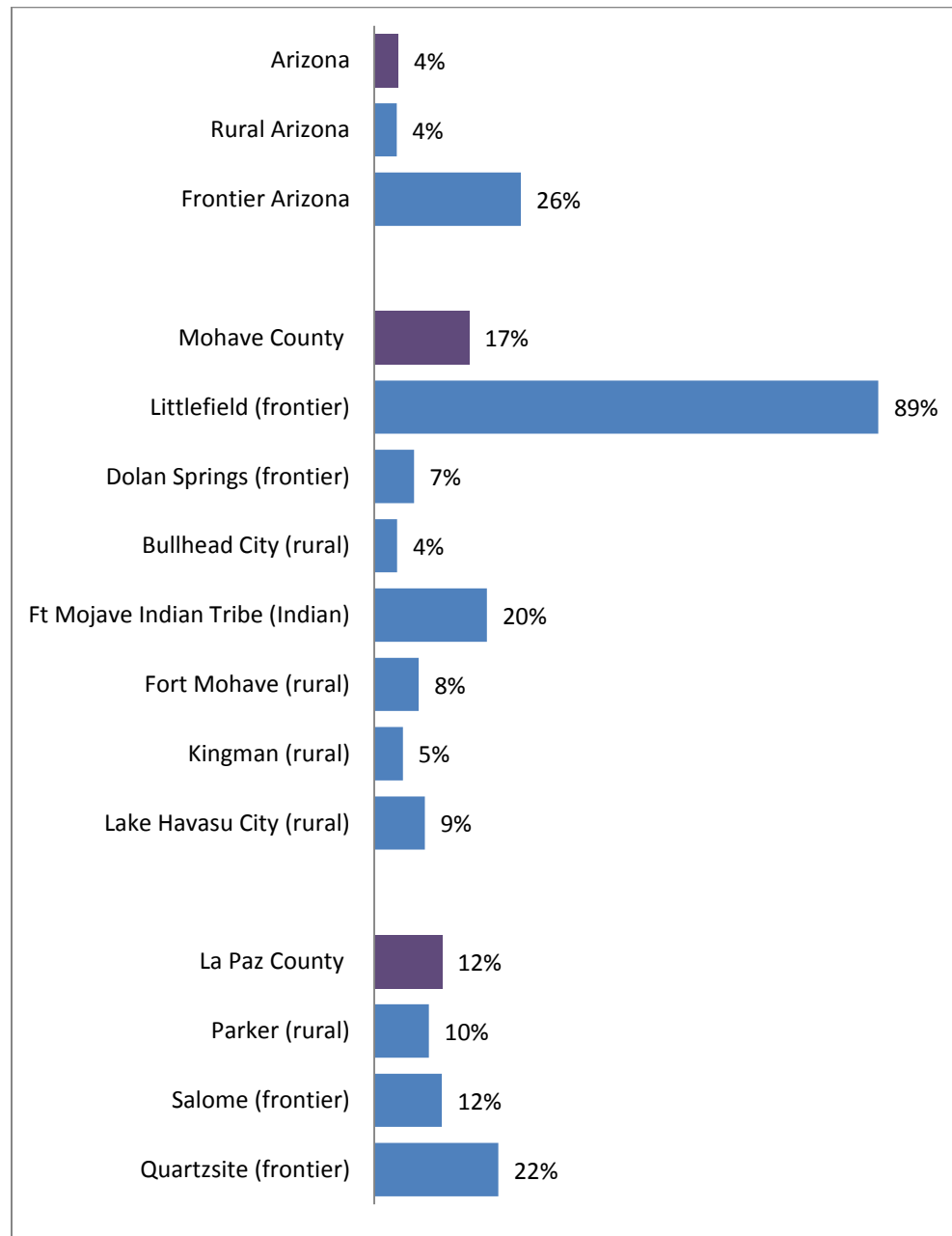


Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, January 2012

Statewide, about 55% of mothers used AHCCCS or IHS to pay birth expenses in 2009. *[provide regional comparative data.]*

There was substantial variation in the number of uninsured births (defined as self-pay or “unknown” payee in the Vital Statistics birth record) in the Region, as can be seen in **Error! Reference source not found..** *[provide additional qualitative information, as available]*

**Figure 24. Percent of Uninsured Births (avg 2000-2009)**



**Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, January 2012**

Additional detail on pregnancy and birth in the state and the La Paz/Mohave Region can be found in Appendix XXX.

### AHCCCS Insurance Coverage

Children in Arizona are covered by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Arizona's Medicaid, through both the Title XIX program (Traditional Medicaid and the Proposition 204 expansion of this coverage of up to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level or FPL) and the Title XXI program (KidsCare) (Arizona State Legislature, Joint Legislative Budget Committee, 2010). *[provide data about current AHCCCS enrollment][will include updates on status of kidscare enrollment and the implications]*

As shown in Table 15 below, *[provide county/statewide comparative text about AHCCCS and KidsCare use in the Region]*

**Table 15. Enrollment in AHCCS, including KidsCare, Dec 2011**

	ARIZONA	La Paz County	Mohave County
AHCCCS Enrollment, December 2010	1,347,614	5,100	50,334
AHCCCS Enrollment, December 2011	1,336,141	4,655	48,893
Population (all ages)	6,110,304	20,132	195,218
Percent of population enrolled in AHCCCS	22%	23%	25%
Population in poverty (all ages)	933,113	4,093	31,502
Percent of population in poverty	15%	20%	16%

Source: AHCCCS (2012) and American Community Survey (2006-2010)

Arizona's state Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) is called KidsCare. It offers free or affordable health insurance for children 18 years of age or younger who do not qualify for employer-based health coverage or for Medicaid through Title XIX.

Table 16 shows the enrollment in KidsCare by county in the Region and for the state as a whole. *[explanatory text]*

**Table 16. Enrollment in Arizona's KidsCare Program**

	ARIZONA	La Paz County	Mohave County
KidsCare enrollment, November 2009	46,750	141	1,245
KidsCare enrollment, November 2010	25,086	81	595
KidsCare enrollment, November 2011	14,225	47	317
Decrease from November 2009 to November 2011	-70%	-67%	-75%
Population of children (0-17)	1,586,990	3642	41726
Percent of children (0-17) enrolled in KidsCare	0.9%	1.3%	0.8%
Number of children (0-17) in poverty	342,607	1326	10300
Percent of children (0-17) in poverty	22%	36%	25%

Source: AHCCCS (2012) and ACS (2006-2010)

## **Developmental Screenings and Services for Children with Special Developmental and Health Care Needs**

The Arizona Child Find program is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that requires states to identify and evaluate all children with disabilities (birth through age 21) to attempt to assure that they receive the supports and services they need. Children are identified through physicians, parent referrals, school districts and screenings at community events. *[updated data on the number of children with special needs from the National Survey on Children with Special Health Care Needs]?*

Screening and evaluation for children from birth to three are provided by the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), who also provide services or make referrals to other appropriate agencies (e.g. for Department of Developmental Disabilities case management). Children eligible for AzEIP services are those who have not reached 50% of the developmental milestones for his or her age in one or more of the following areas: physical, cognitive, communication/language, social/emotional or adaptive self-help. Children who are at high risk for developmental delay because of an established condition (e.g., prematurity, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, among others) are also eligible. Families who have a child who is determined to be eligible for services work with the service provider to develop an individualized Family Service Plan that identifies family priorities, child and family outcomes desired, and the services needed to support attainment of those outcomes.

AzEIP providers can offer, where available, an array of services to eligible children and their families, including assistive technology, audiology, family training, counseling and in-home visits, health services, medical services for diagnostic evaluation purposes, nursing services, nutrition, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychological services, service coordination, social work, special instruction, speech-language therapy, vision services, and transportation (to enable the child and family to participate in early intervention services).

The Region has two AzEIP service providers, Milemarkers and The Learning Center.

*[discuss AzEIP data and comparison to state trends, DDD data and comparison to state trends, barriers to accessing services, and other information as available]*

*[Note: Will include info on Colorado City/Centennial Park birth defects and difficulty accessing services through Children's Rehabilitative Services (need to go to Phoenix with very medically fragile children). We received some data from ADE showing a very high rate of children diagnosed with developmental disabilities in El Capitan preschool—want to confirm before we present them, though. The data we received seem incomplete. But it is corroborated by data below. ]*

About 13 percent of children enrolled in preschool and elementary schools across the Region are receiving special education services. Four school districts in the Region report that greater than one in five children enrolled in preschool or elementary school are receiving these services from their district (see Table 17). Of the diagnoses reported for preschool children in the Region, one quarter are for speech and language delay, two-thirds are for developmental disabilities, and four percent are designated as having severe preschool delays. *[Will try to secure state-level comparison data]*

**Table 17. Preschool and Elementary Children Enrolled in Special Education, by school district**

SCHOOL DISTRICT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION	
Bouse Elementary District	1	39	3	8%
Bullhead City School District	7	2,645	264	10%
Colorado City Unified District	1	288	89	31%
Hackberry School District	2	38	8	21%
Kingman Unified School District	10	4,074	539	13%
Lake Havasu Unified District	6	3,072	334	11%
Littlefield Unified District	1	313	32	10%
Mohave Valley Elementary District	3	1,378	215	16%
Owens-Whitney Elementary District	1	20	3	15%
Parker Unified School District	3	1,045	198	19%
Quartzsite Elementary District	2	194	31	16%
Salome Consolidated Elementary District	1	91	13	14%
Topock Elementary District	1	114	9	8%
Valentine Elementary District	1	120	14	12%
Wenden Elementary District	1	81	19	23%
Yucca Elementary District	1	19	5	26%

SOURCE: ADE Preschool &amp; Elementary Needs, 2011

**Immunizations**

The Arizona Department of Health Services reports that in the La Paz / Mohave Region, approximately 64 percent of children (953) aged 12 to 24 months complete the recommended series. This is slightly lower than the statewide rate of 70 percent. Only 36 percent of children (941) aged 19 to 35 months complete the recommended vaccination series in the La Paz / Mohave Region. This is lower than the statewide rate of 41 percent. *[we are working to confirm these numbers, and will provide more textual information about immunizations and the reported data]*

## Behavioral Health

Researchers and early childhood practitioners have come to recognize the importance of healthy social and emotional development in infants and young children<sup>28</sup>. Infant and toddler mental health is the young child's developing capacity to "experience, regulate and express emotions; form close interpersonal relationships; and explore the environment and learn."<sup>29</sup> A number of interacting factors influence the young child's healthy development, including biological factors (which can be affected by prenatal and postnatal experiences), environmental factors, and relationship factors.<sup>30</sup> Warm, nurturing, responsive, and consistent interactions can be protective factors for young children and help buffer them from adversities.<sup>30</sup> Young children who experience exposure to abuse, neglect or trauma, however, are more likely to show abnormal patterns of development, including distractibility, abnormal patterns of emotion expression, disruptions in feeding and sleeping, and developmental delays in motor and language skills.<sup>31</sup>

A continuum of services to address prevention and treatment in infant and toddler mental health has been proposed by a number of national organizations. These components would include 1) incorporating awareness of infant and toddler mental health issues in early childhood care and education programs, home visiting programs, and health-related programs to promote infant mental health and prevent mental health challenges; 2) providing focused interventions to children and families who may be more at risk for developing mental health problems (for example, families experiencing chronic illness, homelessness, high stress, abuse, substance use, or children with physical health problems); and 3) providing intensive services with mental health professionals for infants, toddlers and their families who face very challenging situations and experience traumatic events that lead to mental health concerns, in order to return them to positive developmental progress<sup>30</sup>.

In 2011, over 205,000 Arizonans were enrolled in the public behavioral health system. According to Arizona Department of Health data, 64,277 (21.3%) of enrollees were children or adolescents; children aged 0-5 comprised 3.8 percent of all enrollees<sup>32</sup>, or approximately 8,000 young children statewide. With about 546,600 children aged birth to 5 in Arizona, this means that about one percent of young children statewide are receiving care in the public behavioral

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<sup>28</sup> *Research Synthesis: Infant Mental health and Early Care and Education Providers*. Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning. Accessed online, May 2012: [http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/documents/rs\\_infant\\_mental\\_health.pdf](http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/documents/rs_infant_mental_health.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> Zero to Three Infant Mental Health Task force Steering Committee, 2001

<sup>30</sup> Zenah P, Stafford B., Nagle G., Rice T. *Addressing Social-Emotional Development and Infant Mental Health in Early Childhood Systems*. Los Angeles, CA: National Center for Infant and Early Childhood Health Policy; January 2005. Building State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Series, No. 12

<sup>31</sup> Scheeringa, M. S., & Zeanah, C. H. (1995). Symptom expression and trauma variables in children under 48 months of age. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 16(4), 259–270.

<sup>32</sup> Division of Behavioral Health Services, Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). *An Introduction to Arizona's Public Behavioral Health System*. Phoenix, Arizona.



health system<sup>33</sup>. It is likely that there are a much higher proportion of young children in need of these types of services than are receiving them. The lack of highly trained mental health professionals with expertise in early childhood, particularly in more rural areas, has been noted as one barrier to meeting the full continuum of service needs for young children. Better equipping healthcare and other service providers to meet infant mental health needs and to serve as effective sources of referral has been proposed as one strategy to help with this barrier to access to this level of care.<sup>34</sup>

*[Will include mention of RPC strategy and qualitative information from forums; will refer to Family Support section for info on other levels of care]*

**Table 18. Enrollment in Public Behavioral Health System**

COUNTIES	REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY / TRIBAL REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY	NUMBER ENROLLED	PERCENT OF CLIENTS ENROLLED STATEWIDE
Apache, Coconino, Mohave, Navajo, Yavapai	Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA)	27,819	13%
La Paz, Yuma, Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz, Pinal	Cenpatico Behavioral Health System (CBHS)	22,980	11%
Pima	Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA)	44,223	22%
Maricopa	Magellan of Arizona	106,008	52%
Tribal Authority	Navajo Nation	1,937	1%
Tribal Authority	Gila River Indian Community	1,519	1%
Tribal Authority	Pascua Yaqui	1,158	1%
Tribal Authority	White Mountain Apache	295	0.1%

Source: Division of Behavioral Health Services, Arizona Department of Health Services, 2012

### Drug Use

A 2009 Arizona Statewide Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile provides data about youth illicit drug consumption by Community Health Analysis Area (CHAA). In the La Paz / Mohave

<sup>33</sup> Woodworth, R. (1994,). Grandparent-headed households and their grandchildren: A special report. Washington, DC: AARP Grandparent Information Center.

<sup>34</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2000). Report of the Surgeon General's Conference on Children's Mental Health: A National Action Agenda. Washington, DC: Author.

Region, students in the Lake Havasu City, Kingman, and Dolan Springs communities reported a relatively low rate of any drug use in the past 30 days (14.77-17.81%; between 1.5 and 0.5 standard deviations below the mean for the state). Littlefield, Bullhead City, and Quartzsite/Salome communities reported a rate of student drug use at about the average for the state (17.82%-20.86%). The highest rate of reported student drug use in the La Paz / Mohave Region occurred in the Fort Mohave and Parker communities (20.87%-23.91%; between 0.5 and 1.5 standard deviations above the mean for the state).

*[Note: We may present these data differently, perhaps in a chart or figure, in future iterations of this report. We may have some additional data on substance use to add]*

### **Oral Health.**

Oral health is an essential component of a young child's overall health and well-being, as dental disease is strongly correlated with both socio-psychological and physical health problems, including impaired speech development, poor social relationships, decreased school performance, diabetes, and cardiovascular problems. Although pediatricians and dentists recommend that children should have their first dental visit by age one, half of Arizona children 0-4 have never seen a dentist. In a statewide survey conducted by the ADHS Office of Oral Health, parents cited difficulties in finding a provider who will see very young children (34%), and the belief that the child does not need to see a dentist (46%) as primary reasons for not taking their child to the dentist.<sup>35</sup>

*[insert Region-specific data about oral health, as available]*

### **Family Support**

[will include qualitative information collected about the quality of family support in the Region, and specific needs identified by key informants]

### **Home Visitation Programs**

[will provide details about home visitation programs available in the Region, and number of families using these programs,]

### **Parental Education**

Parental involvement has been identified as a key factor in the positive growth and development of children<sup>36</sup>, and educating parents about the importance of engaging in activities with their children that are contributory to development has become an increasing

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<sup>35</sup> Office of Oral Health, Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). *Arizona Oral Health Survey of Preschool Children*.

<sup>36</sup> Bruner, C. & Tirmizi, S. N. (2010). *The Healthy Development of Arizona's Youngest Children*. Phoenix, AZ: St. Luke's Health Initiatives and First Things First.

focus. The table below contains survey data illustrating parental involvement in a variety of activities known to contribute positively to healthy development, as described by the Arizona Health Survey, 2010. The Arizona Health Survey parses survey data into 5 different regions. The families from the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council fall into two separate AHS regions: Mohave County families are included in Region 1, which also includes other northern counties (Coconino, Navajo, Apache and Yavapai); La Paz County is included in Region 2, with Yuma.

**Table 19. Parental Involvement in Child's Growth and Development**

	READ OR TELL STORIES PER WEEK			PLAY MUSIC OR SING PER WEEK			GO TO PARK PER MONTH			GO TO THE LIBRARY PER MONTH		
	Every Day	3-6 Days	2 or Less	Every Day	3-6 Days	2 or Less	Every Day	3-6 Days	2 or Less	Every Day	3-6 Days	2 or Less
State Totals	65.6%	24.0%	10.4%	71.1%	18.6%	10.3%	19.4%	24.9%	55.7%	57.5%	20.1%	22.4%
<b>Regions</b>												
Region 1 (Mohave, Coconino, Navajo, Apache, Yavapai)	74.0%	19.7%	6.2%	71.8%	23.0%	5.2%	22.7%	23.6%	53.7%	60.6%	15.7%	23.7%
Region 2 (Yuma, La Paz)	43.2%	32.4%	24.4%	60.0%	25.3%	14.7%	25.6%	24.0%	50.4%	59.7%	24.1%	16.2%
Region 3 (Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Pinal, Gila)	61.4%	29.0%	9.7%	71.6%	17.0%	11.4%	17.8%	32.4%	49.8%	67.0%	17.7%	15.3%
Region 4 (Pima)	36.4%	26.0%	10.6%	68.8%	22.9%	8.3%	24.4%	27.5%	48.1%	57.6%	22.5%	19.9%
Region 5 (Maricopa)	66.7%	23.1%	10.2%	71.9%	16.8%	11.3%	17.7%	23.5%	58.8%	54.8%	20.4%	24.8%

Source: Arizona Health Survey, 2010

*[make Regional comparisons to statewide numbers]*

Poverty status and educational status emerged as important factors influencing parental involvement in this survey. Higher poverty rates were generally associated with less frequent engagement in development activities, and higher levels of education were generally associated with more frequent engagement in development activities. One exception to this was frequency of library visits; less educated adults were *more* likely to take their children to the library on a daily basis.

*[describe libraries in the Region]*

*[describe parent education resources in the Region]*

### Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse and neglect can have serious adverse developmental impacts, and infants and toddlers are at the greatest risk for negative outcomes. Infants and toddlers who have been

abused or neglected are six times more likely than other children to suffer from developmental delays. Later in life, it is not uncommon for maltreated children to experience school failure, engage in criminal behavior, or struggle with mental and/or physical illness. However, research has demonstrated that although infants and toddlers are the most vulnerable to maltreatment, they are also most positively impacted by intervention, which has been shown to be particularly effective with this age group. This research underscores the importance of early identification of and intervention to child maltreatment, as it cannot only change the outlook for young children, but also ultimately save state and federal agencies money in the usage of other services<sup>37</sup>.

The Arizona Department of Economic Security's Division of Children, Youth and Families is the state-administrated child welfare services agency that oversees Child Protective Services (CPS), the state program mandated for the protection of children alleged to abuse and neglected. This program receives screens and investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect, performs assessments of child safety, assesses the imminent risk of harm to the children, and evaluates conditions that support or refute the alleged abuse or neglect and need for emergency intervention. CPS also provides services designed to stabilize a family in crisis and to preserve the family unit by reducing safety and risk factors.

Data on the number of children removed from their homes by CPS is available by zip code (Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Children, Youth and Families, 2011). The table below shows the number of removals by each zip code in the Region from 2007 to 2010.

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<sup>37</sup> Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families. (2010). *Changing the Odds for Babies: Court Teams for Maltreated Infants and Toddlers*. Washington, DC: Hudson, Lucy.

**Table 27. Number of Children Removed**

	Zip code	Number of children (all ages) removed		
		Calendar Year 2007	Calendar Year 2009	Calendar Year 2010
ARIZONA		7,418	7,532	7,872
La Paz/Mohave				
Bouse	85325	2		1
Ehrenberg	85334	2	2	
Parker	85344	10	2	6
Wenden	85357		1	1
Quartzsite	85359			1
Colorado City	86021		3	
Kingman	86401	27	23	39
Kingman	86402		1	
Lake Havasu City	86403	17	9	16
Desert Hills	86404	12	8	12
Lake Havasu City	86406	14	10	27
New Kingman-Butler	86409	41	46	51
Hackberry	86411	3		
Golden Valley	86413	13	10	30
Fort Mohave	86426	6	6	5
Bullhead City	86429	4	5	7
Littlefield	86432	1		1
Topock	86436	2		3
Mohave Valley	86440	2	2	8
Dolan Springs	86441		1	2
Bullhead City	86442	34	40	41
Meadview	86444			3

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Children, Youth and Families, 2011

Child welfare numbers are difficult to interpret across years because they are influenced by numerous factors, including the availability of trained staff to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect, the services available to maintain children safely in their home, and the availability

of out-of-home placements. The 2011 semi-annual report on child welfare in Arizona acknowledged that the Division of Children, Youth and Families has been impacted by vacancies in specialist positions, economic factors creating increasingly complex family situations, and a reduction in behavioral health services for both adults and children. The report also notes challenges in substantiating many allegations of abuse and neglect due to omissions in current state laws about many situations related to child sexual abuse or neglect<sup>38</sup>.

*[provide additional qualitative information about child removals and foster care as available; information about court teams]*

### **Incarcerated Parents**

In Arizona, 3% of youth under 18 are estimated to have one or more incarcerated parents. This statistic includes an estimated 6,194 incarcerated mothers and an estimated 46,873 incarcerated fathers, suggesting that in Arizona, there are over 650 times more incarcerated fathers than incarcerated mothers. This represents a population of Arizona youth who are at great risk for negative developmental outcomes. Previous research on the impact parental incarceration has on families demonstrates that parental incarceration dramatically increases the likelihood of marital hardship, troubling family relationships, and financial instability. Moreover, children who have incarcerated parents commonly struggle with stigmatization, shame and social challenges, and are far more likely to be reported for school behavior and performance problems than children who do not have incarcerated parents<sup>39</sup>.

The emotional risk to very young children (0-5) is particularly high. Losing a parent or primary caregiver to incarceration is a traumatic experience, and young children with incarcerated parents may exhibit symptoms of attachment disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and attention deficit disorder.<sup>40</sup> Studies show that children who visit their incarcerated parent(s) have better outcomes than those who are not permitted to do so<sup>41</sup> and the Arizona Department of Corrections states that it endeavors to support interactions between parents and incarcerated children, as long as interactions are safe.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Children, Youth and Families, Administration for Children, Youth and Families (2011). *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report for the Period of October 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011*. Phoenix, Arizona.

<sup>39</sup> Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. Statistical Analysis Center. (2011). *Children of Incarcerated Parents: Measuring the Scope of the Problem*. USA. Phoenix: Statistical Analysis Center Publication.

<sup>40</sup> Adalist-Estrin, A., & Mustin, J. (2003). *Children of Prisoners Library: About Prisoners and Their Children*. Retrieved from <http://www.fcnetwork.org/cpl/CPL301-ImpactofIncarceration.html>.

<sup>41</sup> Adalist-Estrin, A. (1989). *Children of Prisoners Library: Visiting Mom and Dad*. Retrieved from <http://www.fcnetwork.org/cpl/CPL105-VisitingMom.html>.

<sup>42</sup> Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. Statistical Analysis Center. (2011). *Children of Incarcerated Parents: Measuring the Scope of the Problem*. USA. Phoenix: Statistical Analysis Center Publication.

Regional and even statewide resources for caregivers of children with incarcerated parents are scarce.. KARE, an Arizona Children's Association initiative, offers online informational brochures such Arizona Family Members Behind Bars for caregivers of incarcerated parents. The Children of Prisoner's Library is an online library of pamphlets designed for caregivers and health care providers of children with incarcerated parents. These resources may be downloaded for free in English or Spanish at <http://fcnetwork.org/resources/library/children-of-prisoners-library>.

[still exploring Region-specific information about incarcerated parents]

### Domestic Violence

Domestic violence includes both child abuse and intimate partner abuse. When parents (primarily women) are exposed to physical, psychological, sexual or stalking abuse by their partners, children can get caught in the crossfire in a variety of ways, thereby becoming director or indirect targets of abuse, potentially jeopardizing the their physical and emotional safety (e.g., Evans, Davies, & DeLillo, 2008). Therefore, promoting a safe home environment is key to providing a healthy start for young children.

In 2011, 241 children in La Paz and Mohave Countis received services for domestic violence, with children representing 42 percent of those served. This is slightly less than the proportion for the entire state of Arizona, which was 47.6%. The average length of stay in La Paz and Mohave counties ranged from 14 to 51 days, depending on the shelter. Domestic violence shelters in La Paz and Mohave counties received 1,010 hotline and Information & Referral calls, representing about four percent of the state's total 28,273.<sup>43</sup>

**Table 28. Domestic Violence Shelters and Services Provided**

Domestic Violence Shelters	POPULATION SERVED			UNITS OF SERVICE PROVIDED			
	Total served	Adults	Children	Bed Nights	Average Length of Stay (in days)	Hours of Support Services	Hotline and I&R Calls
ARIZONA	9,769	5,117	4,652	332,967	29	157,615	28,273
LA PAZ and MOHAVE COUNTIES	572	331	241	20,520		5,542	1,010
Colorado River Regional Crisis Shelter	115	58	57	4,023	29	2,194	142
Kingman Aid to Abused People	217	137	80	6,123	15	2,629	519
Sally's Place - S. S. Interagency Council Lake Havasu City	123	76	47	5,608	51	415	175
WestCare Arizona Safe House	117	60	57	4,766	31	304	174

Source: Department of Economic Security, Division of Aging and Adult Services: Domestic Violence Shelter Fund Report, SFY 2011.

<sup>43</sup> Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). *Domestic Violence Shelter Fund Report for SFY 2011*. Phoenix, Arizona.

There are four domestic violence shelters in the La Paz/Mohave Region. [provide additional qualitative information that is available]. The 2011 Domestic Violence Shelter Fund Report identifies child care, transitional housing, and transportation services as the most needed services statewide.

### Homelessness

In Arizona in 2011, 10,504 people were documented as homeless, designating a homelessness rate of 16 per 10,000. Of these people, 4,101 (39%) were part of families.

School districts collect data on the number of economically disadvantaged and homeless students in their schools. Of the school districts in the La Paz/Mohave Region, both Salome and Wenden have 100 percent of their students classified as economically disadvantaged. *[note: We are following up on what this means, relative to free and reduced lunch, for example, because these don't line up]*. Kingman Unified District reports the highest percentage of homeless students (5%).

**Table 20. Homelessness in La Paz/Mohave School Districts**

SCHOOL DISTRICT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGE STUDENTS		HOMELESS STUDENTS	
Bouse Elementary District	1	39	-		-	
Bullhead City School District	7	2,645	1,906	72%	11	<1%
Colorado City Unified District	1	288	204	71%	-	
Hackberry School District	2	38	-		-	
Kingman Unified School District	10	4,074	2,600	64%	210	5%
Lake Havasu Unified District	6	3,072	1,653	54%	104	3%
Littlefield Unified District	1	313	142	45%	-	
Mohave Valley Elementary District	3	1,378	879	64%	53	4%
Owens-Whitney Elementary District	1	20	12	60%	-	
Parker Unified School District	3	1,045	834	80%	23	2%
Quartzsite Elementary District	2	194	163	84%	-	
Salome Consolidated Elementary District	1	91	91	100%	-	
Topock Elementary District	1	114	94	82%	5	4%
Valentine Elementary District	1	120	-		-	
Wenden Elementary District	1	81	81	100%	-	
Yucca Elementary District	1	19	16	84%	-	



SOURCE: ADE Preschool & Elementary Needs, 2011

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) collects data from emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, permanent supportive housing, street outreach, homeless prevention and rapid re-housing, and service providers in all thirteen counties in Arizona. HMIS produces periodic program demographics report for each HMIS region, with the intent that this information may be used to assess local service needs. The La Paz / Mohave Region falls into HMIS Region 1, which includes Mohave, La Paz and Yuma counties.

In this Region, a total of 1,471 clients were served between July 2010 and July 2011, approximately 7 percent (137) of which were children aged 0 to 5. Of all clients, about 11 percent reported being victims of domestic violence.

*[Will use qualitative information from focus groups to expand upon this further.]*

## Public Information and Awareness

The primary quantitative data source for Public Awareness in the Region is the First Things First Family and Community survey (FCS) (First Things First, 2009). Compared to the statewide findings, respondents in La Paz/Mohave County more often agreed that frequent changes in childcare providers were detrimental to an infant's development. *[Note: We will include statewide findings as well, and change format of these. Do not have any more recent data than these, but will include more qualitative data, and some of the findings from the regional boundaries and strategic planning surveys]*

**Table 30. FCS: Impact of Frequent Changes in Childcare Providers**  
*How do frequent changes in childcare providers impact an infant's development?*

		Estimate	Cumulative
La Paz/Mohave	Frequent changes are positive	6.3%	6.3%
	Frequent changes are negative	80.2%	86.5%
	Frequent changes have no impact	6.4%	92.9%
	Not sure	7.1%	100.0%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: First Things First, 2009. Results of Family and Community Survey, Unpublished Data

First Things First has noted that the final sample of survey participants was not fully representative of Arizona's population of parents with children 0-5. Weights were therefore calculated and applied to more accurately represent poverty/income, family structure, and ethnicity in the Regional Partnership Council areas.

**Table 31. Regular Visits at the Same Doctor's office**  
*My child/children age 5 and under have regular visits at the same doctor's office.*

		Estimate	Cumulative
La Paz/Mohave	Strongly agree	92.6%	92.6%
	Somewhat agree	1.4%	94.0%
	Somewhat disagree	3.5%	97.5%
	Strongly disagree	2.5%	100.0%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: First Things First, 2009. Results of Family and Community Survey, Unpublished Data

**Table 32. Familiarity with Medical Provider**

*My regular medical provider knows my family well and helps us make healthy decisions.*

		Estimate	Cumulative
La Paz/Mohave	Strongly agree	83.7%	83.7%
	Somewhat agree	7.8%	91.5%
	Somewhat disagree	4.6%	96.1%
	Strongly disagree	3.2%	99.3%
	Not sure	.7%	100.0%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: First Things First, 2009. Results of Family and Community Survey, Unpublished Data

**Table 33. Regular Visits with Same Dental Provider**

*My child/children age 5 and under age regular visits with the same dental provider.*

		Estimate	Cumulative
La Paz/Mohave	Strongly agree	74.9%	74.9%
	Somewhat agree	7.4%	82.3%
	Somewhat disagree	.7%	83.0%
	Strongly disagree	10.3%	93.3%
	Not sure	6.7%	100.0%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: First Things First, 2009. Results of Family and Community Survey, Unpublished Data

**Table 34. Distance from Dental Care**

*How many miles do you have to go to get dental care for your children age 5 and under?*

		Estimate	Cumulative
La Paz/Mohave	Less than 5 miles	65.2%	65.2%
	5-10 miles	15.6%	80.8%

	10-20 miles	6.0%	86.8%
	More than 20 miles	5.7%	92.6%
	None available	7.4%	100.0%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: First Things First, 2009. Results of Family and Community Survey, Unpublished Data

### Table 35. Perception of Child's Overall Health

Compared with other children age 5 and under, would you say that your child's health is...?

		Estimate	Cumulative
La Paz/Mohave	Excellent	77.5%	77.5%
	Very good	13.7%	91.2%
	Good	6.7%	97.9%
	Fair	1.4%	99.3%
	Poor	.7%	100.0%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: First Things First, 2009. Results of Family and Community Survey, Unpublished Data

The overall results of the 2009 First Things First Family and Community Survey demonstrated challenges to access to and awareness of serves for families with young children. For example:

- 38% of respondents indicated that the available family support services do not meet their family's needs
- 32% of respondents indicated that existing services do not adequately screen for problems or intervene appropriately
- 20% of respondents indicated that the available family support services are not offered at times that are convenient to them

Socioeconomic status emerged as an important factor in service satisfaction. While less than a third of higher SES parents reported being dissatisfied with family support service comprehensiveness, 56% of lower SES parents reported being dissatisfied with the comprehensiveness of available services. Lower SES parents also reported more challenges in obtaining early intervention services<sup>44</sup>

*[provide additional Region-specific qualitative information]*

<sup>44</sup> First Things First (2009). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Phoenix, AZ.

## System Coordination

*[provide qualitative information about coordination of services; draw inferences from FCS responses as shown above]*

## Summary and Conclusion

*[The summary and conclusion will be a one- or two-page review of the report. We will highlight the salient needs and assets in the region, place these in the context of the current Regional strategic plan, and provide recommendations for the future.]*

## Appendix X. Data by Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA)

GEOGRAPHY	TOTAL POPULATION	POPULATION (AGES 0-5)	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN (AGES 0-5)	
Arizona	6,392,017	546,609	2,380,990	384,441	16%
La Paz/Mohave Region	211,367	13,395	88,742	9,126	10%
La Paz County	20,489	1,227	9,198	822	9%
ZCTA 85325 Bouse	1,212	32	655	19	3%
ZCTA 85328 Cibola	259	10	126	7	6%
ZCTA 85334 Ehrenberg	1,482	90	650	66	10%
ZCTA 85344 (minus CRIT) Parker	2,489	86	1,304	69	5%
ZCTA 85346 Quartzsite	4,423	104	2,423	72	3%
ZCTA 85348 Salome	2,786	87	1,403	59	4%
ZCTA 85357 Wenden	761	79	301	45	15%
Mohave County	200,186	13,218	82,539	8,981	11%
ZCTA 85360 Wikieup	222	7	107	5	5%
ZCTA 86021 Colorado City	6,085	1,441	782	529	68%
ZCTA 86401 Kingman	24,289	1,669	9,625	1,199	12%
ZCTA 86403 Lake Havasu City	15,802	919	7,074	672	9%
ZCTA 86404 Desert Hills	16,243	829	7,322	638	9%
ZCTA 86406 Lake Havasu City	23,763	1,250	10,343	932	9%
ZCTA 86409 New Kingman-Butler	26,471	1,875	10,990	1,303	12%
ZCTA 86411 Hackberry	224	9	100	6	6%
ZCTA 86413 Golden Valley	12,103	491	4,637	326	7%
ZCTA 86426 Fort Mohave	13,863	834	5,556	617	11%
ZCTA 86429 Bullhead City	7,162	397	3,307	288	9%
ZCTA 86431 Chloride	403	8	228	5	2%
ZCTA 86432 Littlefield	3,933	280	1,556	196	13%
ZCTA 86433 Oatman	111	6	61	5	8%
ZCTA 86436 Topock	2,104	47	1,040	37	4%
ZCTA 86437 Valentine	76	6	29	2	7%
ZCTA 86438 Yucca	913	29	462	26	6%
ZCTA 86440 Mohave Valley	6,906	456	2,771	320	12%
ZCTA 86441 Dolan Springs	2,224	67	1,106	49	4%
ZCTA 86442 Bullhead City	33,382	2,259	13,880	1,614	12%
ZCTA 86443 Temple Bar	76	4	45	2	4%
ZCTA 86444 Meadview	1,289	21	697	16	2%
ZCTA 86445 Willow Beach	311	3	162	2	1%
Fort Mojave Reservation (Arizona part)	1,004	89	370	63	17%

Source: US Census 2010; Tables P1, P14, &amp; P20

GEOGRAPHY	POPULATION (AGES 0-5)	LIVING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN (0-5)					
		WITH PARENT(S)		WITH OTHER RELATIVES		WITH NON- RELATIVES	
Arizona	546,609	444,657	81%	91,301	17%	9,837	2%
La Paz/Mohave Region	13,395	10,745	80%	2,250	17%	388	3%
La Paz County	1,227	929	76%	266	22%	21	2%
ZCTA 85325, Bouse	32	23	72%	9	28%	0	0%
ZCTA 85328, Cibola	10	5	50%	5	50%	0	0%
ZCTA 85334, Ehrenberg	90	74	82%	15	17%	1	1%
ZCTA 85344 (minus CRIT), Parker	86	65	76%	18	21%	3	3%
ZCTA 85346, Quartzsite	104	78	75%	18	17%	4	4%
ZCTA 85348, Salome	87	77	89%	9	10%	1	1%
ZCTA 85357, Wenden	79	64	81%	14	18%	1	1%
Mohave County	13,218	10,582	80%	2,244	17%	384	3%
ZCTA 85360, Wikieup	7	7	100%	0	0%	0	0%
ZCTA 86021, Colorado City	1,441	1,311	91%	81	6%	49	3%
ZCTA 86401, Kingman	1,669	1,389	83%	232	14%	47	3%
ZCTA 86403, Lake Havasu City	919	725	79%	166	18%	24	3%
ZCTA 86404, Desert Hills	829	665	80%	142	17%	22	3%
ZCTA 86406, Lake Havasu City	1,250	1,089	87%	140	11%	21	2%
ZCTA 86409, New Kingman-Butler	1,875	1,434	76%	363	19%	78	4%
ZCTA 86411, Hackberry	9	6	67%	3	33%	0	0%
ZCTA 86413, Golden Valley	491	338	69%	130	26%	23	5%
ZCTA 86426, Fort Mohave	834	625	75%	176	21%	33	4%
ZCTA 86429, Bullhead City	397	322	81%	62	16%	13	3%
ZCTA 86431, Chloride	8	2	25%	6	75%	0	0%
ZCTA 86432, Littlefield	280	218	78%	58	21%	4	1%
ZCTA 86433, Oatman	6	6	100%	0	0%	0	0%
ZCTA 86436, Topock	47	37	79%	8	17%	2	4%
ZCTA 86437, Valentine	6	3	50%	3	50%	0	0%
ZCTA 86438, Yucca	29	19	66%	9	31%	1	3%
ZCTA 86440, Mohave Valley	456	337	74%	108	24%	10	2%
ZCTA 86441, Dolan Springs	67	43	64%	24	36%	0	0%
ZCTA 86442, Bullhead City	2,259	1,759	78%	447	20%	51	2%
ZCTA 86443, Temple Bar	4	2	50%	2	50%	0	0%
ZCTA 86444, Meadview	21	19	90%	2	10%	0	0%
ZCTA 86445, Willow Beach	3	3	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Fort Mojave Reservation (Arizona part)	89	71	80%	17	19%	1	1%

GEOGRAPHY	PLACE NAME	TOTAL POPULATION	HISPANIC	NOT HISPANIC				
				WHITE	BLACK	AMERICAN INDIAN	ASIAN or PACIFIC ISLANDER	OTHER
Arizona		6,392,017	30%	58%	4%	4%	3%	2%
La Paz/Mohave Region		211,367	15%	80%	1%	1%	1%	2%
La Paz County		20,489	23%	63%	1%	11%	0%	2%
ZCTA 85325	Bouse	1,212	5%	90%	0%	1%	0%	3%
ZCTA 85328	Cibola	259	24%	72%	0%	2%	0%	2%
ZCTA 85334	Ehrenberg	1,482	32%	63%	1%	1%	1%	2%
ZCTA 85344 (minus CRIT)	Parker	2,489	10%	85%	1%	2%	1%	2%
ZCTA 85346	Quartzsite	4,423	7%	90%	0%	2%	0%	1%
ZCTA 85348	Salome	2,786	15%	83%	1%	0%	0%	1%
ZCTA 85357	Wenden	761	53%	41%	1%	3%	0%	2%
Mohave County		200,186	15%	80%	1%	2%	1%	2%
ZCTA 85360	Wikieup	222	13%	83%	0%	0%	1%	2%
ZCTA 86021	Colorado City	6,085	2%	98%	0%	0%	0%	0%
ZCTA 86401	Kingman	24,289	12%	82%	1%	1%	2%	2%
ZCTA 86403	Lake Havasu City	15,802	16%	79%	1%	1%	1%	2%
ZCTA 86404	Desert Hills	16,243	12%	84%	1%	1%	1%	1%
ZCTA 86406	Lake Havasu City	23,763	9%	87%	1%	1%	1%	1%
ZCTA 86409	New Kingman-Butler	26,471	12%	83%	1%	1%	1%	2%
ZCTA 86411	Hackberry	224	5%	86%	0%	7%	0%	1%
ZCTA 86413	Golden Valley	12,103	14%	80%	2%	1%	1%	2%
ZCTA 86426	Fort Mohave	13,863	16%	79%	1%	1%	2%	2%
ZCTA 86429	Bullhead City	7,162	15%	79%	2%	1%	2%	2%
ZCTA 86431	Chloride	403	6%	87%	0%	0%	3%	3%
ZCTA 86432	Littlefield	3,933	34%	63%	0%	1%	1%	1%
ZCTA 86433	Oatman	111	1%	96%	0%	0%	1%	2%
ZCTA 86436	Topock	2,104	8%	89%	0%	1%	1%	1%
ZCTA 86437	Valentine	76	17%	32%	0%	51%	0%	0%
ZCTA 86438	Yucca	913	8%	86%	1%	2%	1%	2%
ZCTA 86440	Mohave Valley	6,906	18%	71%	0%	7%	1%	3%
ZCTA 86441	Dolan Springs	2,224	11%	85%	1%	1%	1%	2%
ZCTA 86442	Bullhead City	33,382	26%	70%	1%	1%	1%	2%
ZCTA 86443	Temple Bar	76	5%	93%	0%	0%	0%	1%
ZCTA 86444	Meadview	1,289	5%	91%	1%	1%	1%	2%
ZCTA 86445	Willow Beach	311	6%	89%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Fort Mojave Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land (Arizona part)		1,004	25%	39%	0%	32%	0%	3%



## **Appendix X. Community Forum Summary – Dolan Springs**

The focus group was conducted in both Spanish and English, as about half of attendees were parents who spoke mostly Spanish. The rest of the participants were school staff.

Dolan Springs is on Highway 25, the road from Kingman or Las Vegas to the Grand Canyon West Resort and the Grand Canyon Skywalk, touristic attractions managed by the Hualapai Tribe. Several local businesses on the main road cater to tourists on the way to these destinations. Mt. Tipton School (K-12) in Dolan Springs also serves the communities of Chloride, Meadview, and White Hills.

Forum participants indicated that they chose to live in Dolan Springs because it is more affordable than larger nearby communities like Kingman. The town has a transient population with lots of people moving in and leaving.

### **Assets/existing services:**

- Families and school staff who are invested in the community and care about the wellbeing of its inhabitants.
- Local school that used to be classified as ‘low-performing’ and has improved substantially in the last few years. School administration’s open to the possibility of providing a space open to all community members where young children could access early literacy materials.
- School-based preschool- there are about 15 regular children enrolled but can enroll up to 25 to serve children with special needs. They do have a waiting list of about 5 or 6 children.
- School is starting to bring story time once/month from the Mohave County Library.
- St. Vincent de Paul brings a food bank to the community once a month
- There are some residents, perhaps retirees, who are foster parents.

### **Challenges/Needs:**

- Limited access to health care services:
  - There is no clinic or health care facility in town where families can take children to, not even for emergency (there is a small local clinic but it does not take children at all). Families must go to Kingman (36 miles away) and many who are uninsured choose to seek care at North Country Health Care where they are charged on a sliding scale fee. The nearest pharmacy is also in Kingman.
  - Immunization rates impacted by the limited access to health care facilities.
- Almost no local jobs; community members travel to either Kingman or Las Vegas for work. Some also commute to the Hualapai Tribe’s Grand Canyon Skywalk and Grand Canyon West Resort for work, 40 miles away.

- Many local children have parents who are incarcerated (often for drug-related crimes), and are living with their retired grandparents in the area.
- The current preschool day is only 3 hours. School would have the space for expansion, but it is not clear that, with the lack of jobs, parents see a need of, or can afford preschool. Other than school-based preschool, there are no other child care options but relatives and friends.

**What would help:**

- Bring back registered nurse to school – used to have one, but not anymore.
- Have developmental screenings be done locally
- Investment in jobs
- Longer preschool days and more options for childcare for children younger than 3
- A space for young children in the school with early literacy materials that families could check out. This would be a space where anyone could come in and hang out or check out materials.
- A mobile immunizations clinic that visits the community once a month.
- A local site for well-baby care, and for back-to-school check-ups for older children.
- Library-based services for children younger than 3, and parenting classes for parents of children younger than 3.





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